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ONE AFTER ANOTHER
PARTING WAYS WITH JOSEPH RANDLE

PREVIEW
COWBOYS AT BUCCANEERS

Volume 41, No. 21



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**Here's to the
One of a Kinds.**



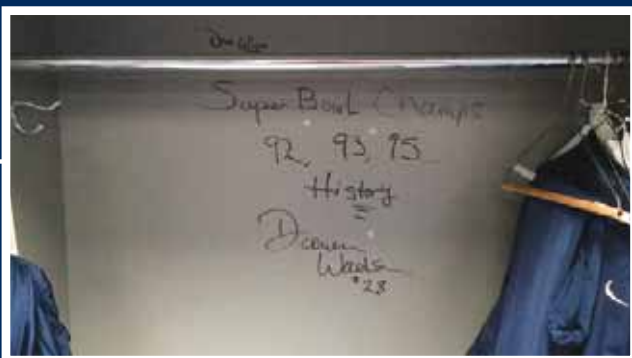
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ONE AFTER ANOTHER 37

The Cowboys decide to part ways with Joseph Randle, bringing more change to the team's offense.

By Mickey Spagnola



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COOL CONFIDENCE 30

Whether splitting the uprights on a last-second field goal or flying thousands of feet above the ground, steady Dan Bailey is up for the challenge.

By Micah Powell



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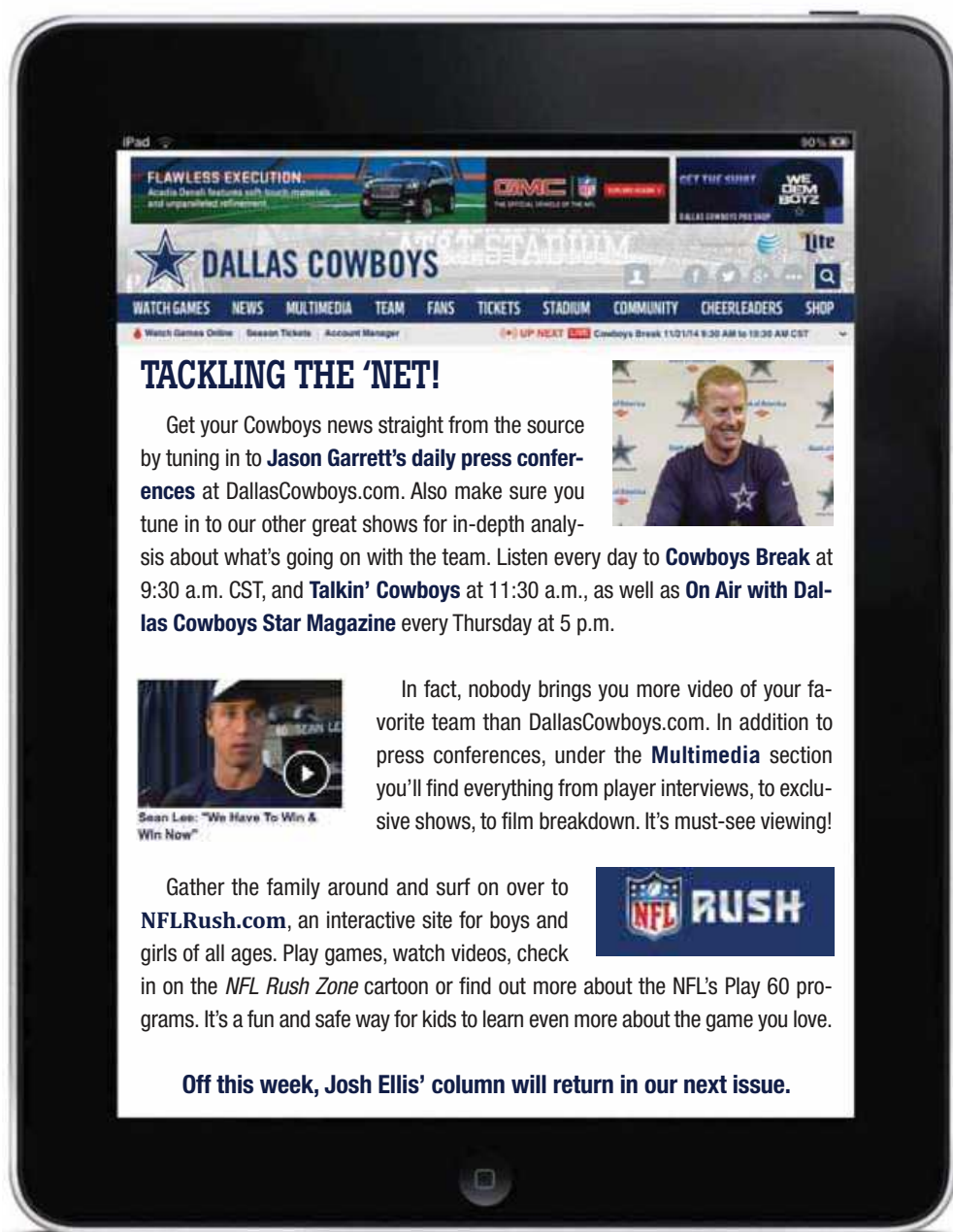
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On the Cover:

Dan Bailey

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Sean Lee: "We Have To Win & Win Now"

In fact, nobody brings you more video of your favorite team than DallasCowboys.com. In addition to press conferences, under the **Multimedia** section you'll find everything from player interviews, to exclusive shows, to film breakdown. It's must-see viewing!

Gather the family around and surf on over to **NFLRush.com**, an interactive site for boys and girls of all ages. Play games, watch videos, check in on the **NFL Rush Zone** cartoon or find out more about the NFL's Play 60 programs. It's a fun and safe way for kids to learn even more about the game you love.



Off this week, Josh Ellis' column will return in our next issue.

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Mickey Spagnola ★ *Daryl "Moose" Johnston*

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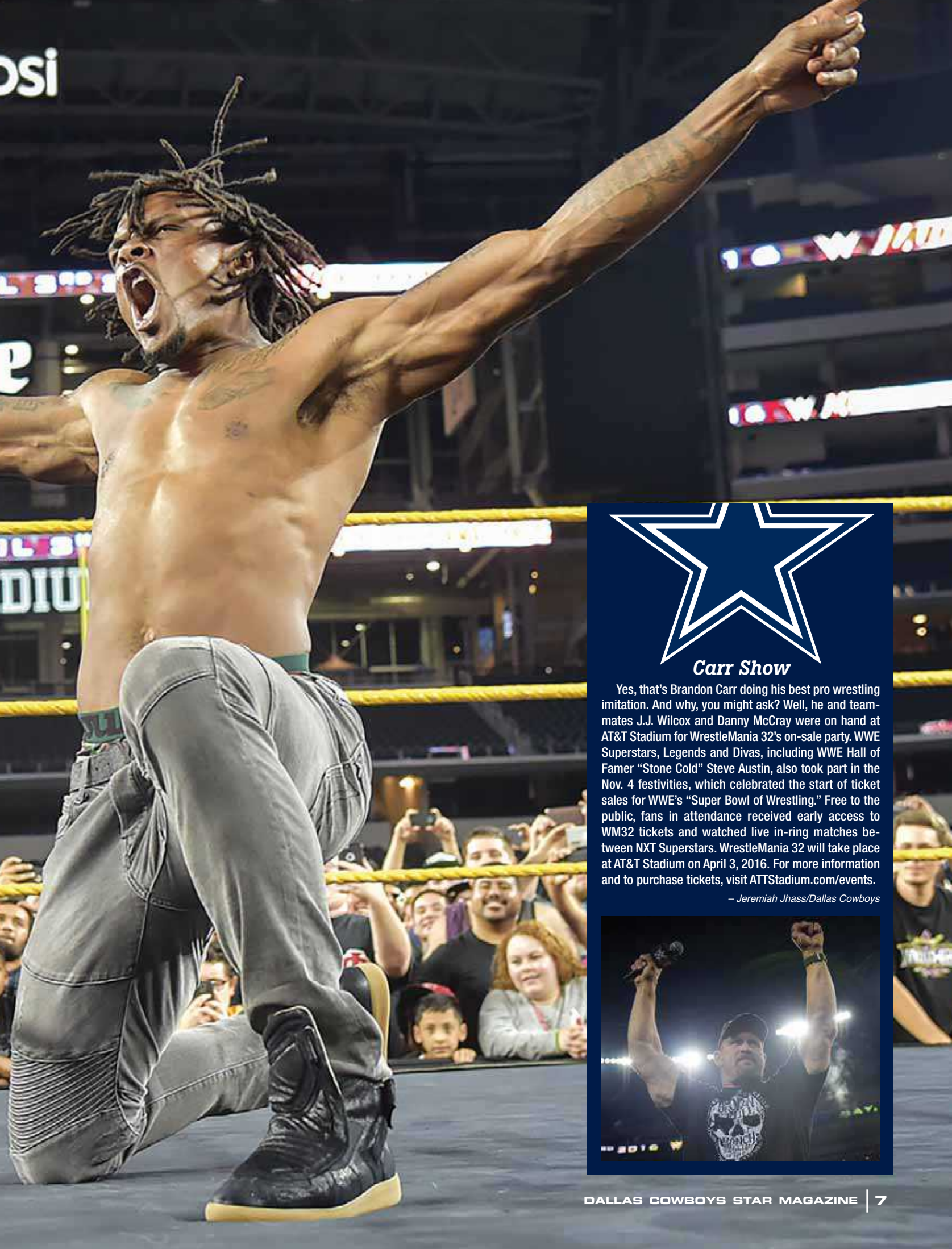
Mondays @ 5:15pm

Mike Florio

Fridays @ 8:30am







Carr Show

Yes, that's Brandon Carr doing his best pro wrestling imitation. And why, you might ask? Well, he and teammates J.J. Wilcox and Danny McCray were on hand at AT&T Stadium for WrestleMania 32's on-sale party. WWE Superstars, Legends and Divas, including WWE Hall of Famer "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, also took part in the Nov. 4 festivities, which celebrated the start of ticket sales for WWE's "Super Bowl of Wrestling." Free to the public, fans in attendance received early access to WM32 tickets and watched live in-ring matches between NXT Superstars. WrestleMania 32 will take place at AT&T Stadium on April 3, 2016. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit ATTStadium.com/events.

— Jeremiah Jhass/Dallas Cowboys





As an Army logistics officer, Lacy Miske moved a lot of precious cargo. Today, it's not so different.

Over the next five years, more than a million service members will make the transition from military to civilian life. We believe it's our job to help connect them with the jobs, financial education and comprehensive support they'll need to thrive here at home. Case in point: Lacy Miske, who used logistics and managerial skills learned in the Army to transition into a career at Bank of America where she helps oversee the secure delivery of cash to our network of ATMs and financial centers. See Lacy's story at bankofamerica.com/militarysupport



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ON THE SIDELINES with Kristi Scales

GRAFFITI IN THE LOCKER ROOM?



ever wrote it wanted it to be seen because it's big letters, both print and cursive.

Super Bowl Champs

92, 93, 95....

History

Darren Woodson #28

In addition, there's a note on the upper left corner of the back of the locker, also written in black Sharpie, which says "Don't Wipe."

That's because Darren Woodson, the newest member of the Ring of Honor, wanted to leave a message to all the players who would later occupy the locker. Darren won three Super Bowls during his career, hence the wording.

Oh, by the way, Woodson also wrote his name in the team's history books: He is the Cowboys' all-time leading tackler (1,350) and was selected to five Pro Bowls.

But that's not why Woodson was allowed to leave his mark in the locker room.

It's because he is one of the most-respected men to ever walk the halls of Valley Ranch or grace the football field at Texas Stadium. On and off the field, he was the perfect teammate, the perfect role model. The kind of person that we hope our children grow up to be.

Equipment manager Mike McCord gave Woodson his blessing in leaving the message in the locker. Trust me, that was a big deal because McCord is not the type of guy who would allow anyone to mess up the team's workspace.

"That's right, he is the only one I would allow to sign his locker," says McCord. "After those Super Bowl championships, he wanted to make a statement, and he had been in that locker for



a very long time, so we wanted to have some history there.

"It's kind of like our recent trip to Freedom Tower at One World Trade Center prior to the Giants game. The people who built the tower talked about leaving their mark inside. That's kind of what it felt like when Darren Woodson signed that locker.

"Darren was truly a professional on and off the field. He came in here as a rookie from Arizona State, and you could just tell the guy had it. Whatever it is, he had it. There was a certain demeanor when he got here. He took football very seriously, yet he made all the other players and people around him relaxed. He made every situation better.

"There are not too many guys I would say that about, but truly Darren Woodson was the best, and I wish he could be here every day with us. I think he could make this team so much better in helping the young guys along, but also by being honest and open with the veteran guys. I just love the guy, he's awesome."

Woodson's old locker is now being used by offensive tackle Charles Brown, a sixth-year NFL veteran who is in his first season with the Cowboys. Brown previously played for the Saints and the Giants. He grew up in Chino Hills, Calif., and was only 9 years old when Woodson won the third of his three Super Bowls.

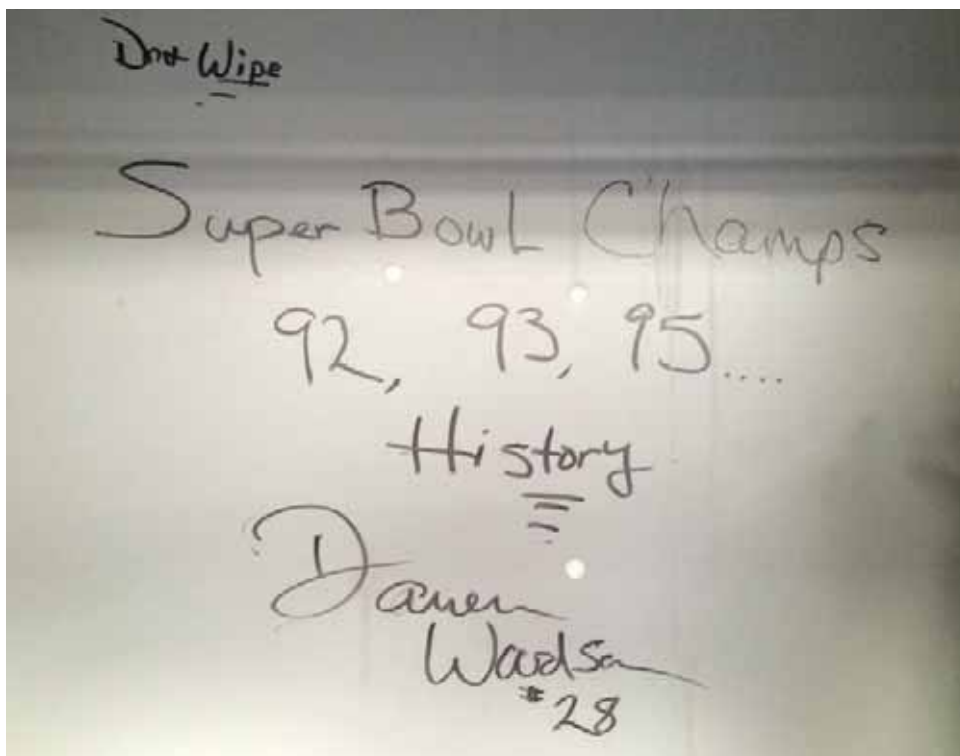
So you'll have to forgive Brown for not knowing a whole lot about Woodson. Brown didn't grow up in Dallas, nor is he old enough to remember or appreciate Woodson's dominance on the football field.

Nevertheless, I felt compelled to talk to Brown and tell him more about the guy who left the message in his locker.

"I've heard of him," Brown says of Woodson, "but I don't know that much about him. Hopefully, I get to meet him soon."

Then I ask Brown if it's OK if I take a photo of his locker with Woodson's message in the back. So Brown pushes the shirt hangars aside, so I can get a clear shot.

"Yes, of course," he says. "Everyone needs to see this."



Do you have a question about the Cowboys or life on an NFL sideline? If so, email Kristi at KScales@DallasCowboys.net or write to: Kristi Scales, Dallas Cowboys Radio Network, One Cowboys Parkway, Irving, TX 75063

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COMMUNITY COWBOYS

CARR ENCOURAGES KIDS TO 'PLAY 60, READ 20'

On Nov. 3, the Cowboys hosted a unique event at Gabe Allen Elementary School in Dallas, starring cornerback Brandon Carr and former NFL player and best-selling author Tim Green. The concept was to encourage kids to "PLAY 60" – exercise your body for 60 minutes – in order to "READ 20" – exercise your mind by reading.

The morning started out with an outdoor Play 60 clinic, facilitated with help from Cowboys employee volunteers, football players from local Pinkston High School and members of the Dallas Cowboys Women's Association, an organization of Cowboys player, coach and executive wives and significant others.

Following the clinic, the Read 20 portion of the event took the main stage. With help from Carr, Green read aloud to students a chapter from his newest book, *Kid Owner*, a story about football, family and lessons learned through the many ups and downs we call life.

Green ended on a cliffhanger (will Ryan ever get to play football?!) to the students' groans. But, Green had a surprise: All the students received their own signed copy of *Kid Owner*.

The event was a reward for Gabe Allen students completing their "Reading Blitz Challenge," a six-week reading program that incorporates exercise and playtime. A growing number of studies link regular physical activity with better academic performance for kids. Students who play and exercise are more apt to stay focused and learn better.

Dallas Cowboys Women's Association members have been champions of this concept, spearheading the Reading Blitz program and reading to students regularly at Gabe Allen Elementary. Brill Garrett, wife of head coach Jason Garrett, joined Carr and Green in congratulating the Reading Blitz program's top five readers.



On a special day with a great goal to get kids taking care of both their bodies and minds, Green added a third concept of importance – character. He left students with this challenge:

"Find someone who is different than you. Someone who comes from a different background, has a different religion or someone who is sick or lonely or sad," he instructed. "Seek that person out, and say something kind to that person. Invite them to sit with you at lunch or tell them what a great job they did on that spelling test. Something kind. That is your homework."

Healthy bodies, healthy minds, healthy spirits. An inspiring goal for us all.

– Holly Hilburn

COWBOYS TEAM WITH PEPSI FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT WEEK

The Cowboys teamed with Pepsi to celebrate the Pepsi Community Impact Week, benefiting the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB). Over the course of the week, Pepsi employees collected food donations and financial contributions for the NTFB.

And as part of the efforts, Pepsi and Cowboys employee volunteers, led by Hall of Famer Charles Haley and Pepsi South Region Vice President Heather Hoytink, helped sort, bag and organize food products at the NTFB warehouse and distribution center in Dallas, which will soon be distributed through the Food Bank's network of more than 200 partner agencies.





GLENN RUSSELL



Glenn with his wife, Martha.

HOMETOWN: Odenton, Md., and Largo, Fla.

WHEN I BECAME A COWBOYS FAN: In 1960 when Eddie LeBaron became the Cowboys quarterback.

FAVORITE ALL-TIME COWBOY: Randy White

MOST-UNDERRATED COWBOY: Daryl Johnston

LAST GAME I ATTENDED: Nov. 2, 2014. The Cowboys lost to Arizona. What a weekend, though. We had a private tour and memories to last a lifetime. The Cowboys are a classy franchise for sure.

FAVORITE COWBOYS WIN: The Super Bowl XXX win over the Steelers.

FAVORITE COWBOYS CHEERLEADER: Can't pick just one. Fans don't know unless they attend a game at AT&T Stadium just what athletes these young women are. Very impressive.

MOST-PRIZED COWBOYS POSSESSION: I have a treasured original bobblehead doll (really old) and a leather championship jacket (limited edition) with all five Super Bowl wins.

COWBOYS WISH LIST: A Super Bowl win in this next season for the fans and to reward an outstanding year for the Cowboys as well as for the Jones family.

COWBOYS ARE: My passion. I bleed Dallas Cowboys blue and silver.



Dallas Cowboys United members may submit Fan Profile answers and photos (jpeg, 300 dpi) for consideration to editor@dallascowboys.net or mail to *Dallas Cowboys Publications*, Attn: Editor, Fan Profile, 1 Cowboys Pkwy, Irving, TX 75063-4924. Photos cannot be returned. Dallas Cowboys Star Magazine reserves the right to edit answers.

HIDDEN TREASURE

Buried down in the archives of the Cowboys' rich history lies a bounty of unique, and oftentimes strange, memorabilia.

This seems odd, right? A certificate thanking the Cowboys for sponsoring the U.S.A. national bobsled team? Of course, the connection that first comes to mind is that Herschel Walker, who played for the Cowboys from 1986-89 and then again in 1996-97, famously competed with the two-man bobsled squad in the 1992 Lillehammer Olympics. But this certificate is from the 1982 World Championships. So, what gives? Explained John Morgan, son of Forrest "Dew Drop" Morgan, who was manager of the bobsled program at the time, "My dad and Ernie Stautner were friends in the 1950s and 1960s up here in New York [near Lake Placid]." Stautner served under Tom Landry for 23 seasons, 1966-88, primarily as the Cowboys' defensive coordinator. John, himself a former bobsledder and the lead bobsled broadcaster for the last eight Winter Olympic Games, even sent along a photo of the original sideline jackets that were given to the bobsledders that year. Who could have imagined? *(On a side note, if you want to read about a fascinating life, Google "Dew Drop" Morgan.)*



Flint's View



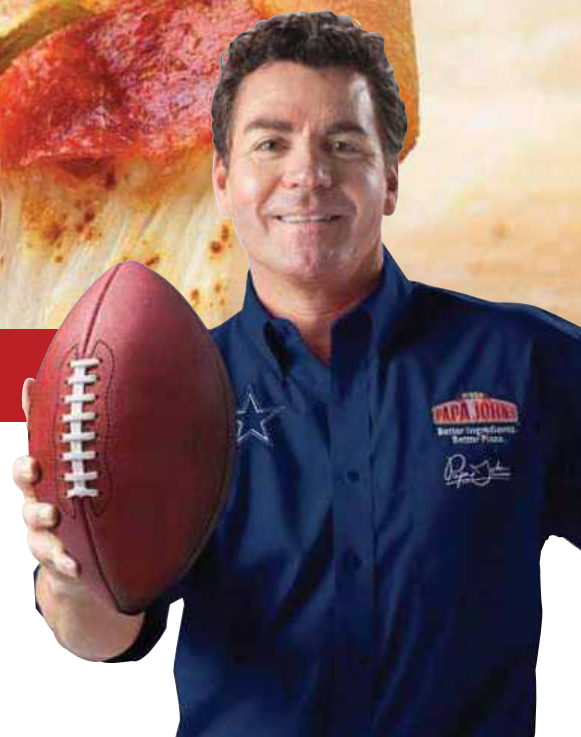
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OUT OF BOUNDS

WITH LUCKY WHITEHEAD

WR/KR | 23 years old | NFL rookie | Florida Atlantic | @ninjafast22

by Ram Luthra

WHAT IS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?

I went to the movies yesterday (Monday is an off day). It has a weird name. It's called *Sicario*. It's some crazy movie, but I loved it.



WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU GO TO LAS VEGAS?

Honestly, I haven't been there before, but when I do make the trip, I'll probably hit up the slot machines.

WHAT'S YOUR NICKNAME?

Lucky. That's an easy one. But my real name is Rodney. I got the nickname when I was born. My mom gave it to me.

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

You know what? I'm pretty much an open book. You get what you see.

WHO IS THE ONE PERSON IN YOUR LIFE YOU DON'T WANT TO LET DOWN?

My mother (Karen Morris).

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FRUIT?

Watermelon

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR SUPERPOWER?

To be invisible.

WHAT CAR DID YOU DRIVE TO WORK TODAY?

A Jaguar XF. It's white, 2014.



LeBron, Kobe or Jordan?

LeBron

HOW MANY CHICKEN WINGS CAN YOU EAT IN ONE SITTING?

Eight. That's it, man. I'm good for only eight. I like the mild flavor.



WHAT DO YOU NOT WANT ON YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER PLATE?

Pumpkin pie. I'm not a big fan, but it does smell good.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?

When people come out of Walmart or any store and they come out of the wrong exit and enter doors. It's annoying when you're trying to go in and someone is coming out that way. I can't stand it.



Who is your favorite musician?

Young Thug.

If you have questions that you would like answered from players, please submit them via email to editor@dallascowboys.net.



With so much to cover in so little time, *On Air with Dallas Cowboys Star Magazine* hosts Josh Ellis, Shannon Gross and David Helman can't address all the great Twitter questions they get from fans each week, so they rounded up the best fan feedback and responded to a few of them here.



The New Don Draper
@josh_ellis11 @HelmanDC @Shannon_PG is Sean's Lee slow start directly related to the slow start by the interior DL?

SHANNON: First off, I'm not sure what you mean by slow start. Lee leads this team in tackles and is one of only a few players with an interception. And, he has a sack on the season.

JOSH: We are used to seeing him make more plays, though, right? The Cowboys don't get a lot of interceptions, so because he has one we say that he's having a great year, no?

DAVID: It does feel pretty harsh to say that Lee has started slow, though. Like Shannon said, he's leading the team from a defensive-playmaking standpoint, even if the numbers aren't off the charts. And that's despite missing most of Week 4 with a concussion. That said, I'll concede that he hasn't made a ton of plays since he came away with that end zone interception of Sam Bradford in Week 2.

JOSH: So, to the other side of the question. Does the interior of the defensive line have anything to do with it?

DAVID: Criticism applies to basically every member of the defense. They're in position to make impact plays. They just aren't doing it.

JOSH: Lastly on Lee: Maybe it's just a natural part of recovering from a torn ACL.

JOSH: Let me first say, if you're not sure, EV stands for expected value. It's basically a deep statistical measure of how good or bad a coaching decision is. And our question comes from Jonathan Bales, who knows his deep stats.

DAVID: I think that's pretty indicative of football coaches in general. There are some exceptions, like Carolina's Ron Rivera going for it on fourth down twice in the same drive against the Colts, but I think there's a conservative tendency among football coaches in general. And, I think a lot of that has to do with how hard it is to attain a head coaching job and how easy it is to lose one.

JOSH: Well, Garrett has always been conservative overall, but strangely, we saw him get fairly aggressive last year in the playoffs. That surprised me. If you play that way to win a must-win game, why not play that way to win a regular-season game?

SHANNON: I think Garrett has an old-school approach and way of thinking when it comes to football. I think it comes down to a way of thinking that this is the way we've always done it, and this is the way we're going to continue to do it.

JOSH: But the way we've always done it can be a bad decision. Kicking a field goal from the 1-yard line is a bad decision now, just like it was 50 years ago.

SHANNON: Garrett may be boring, but his philosophies, sayings and consistency is what has gotten this team to buy in over his tenure.

JOSH: That's great. I just wonder how many points his philosophies have cost them.

Jonathan Bales
@josh_ellis11 @HelmanDC @Shannon_PG Why does Garrett knowingly make -EV decisions (like the 4th down FGs)? He knows the numbers.

DAVID: No thanks. Not at all, actually. Fish are slimy and cold, and catching one hurled at my face sounds like a traumatic experience. Yes, I am a wuss.

JOSH: I do prefer mine to come pre-scaled and cleaned. And preferably with tartar sauce and lemon. But I think I would do it just to say I did.

SHANNON: I actually went to that market in hopes of catching a fish last year when the Cowboys played up there, but it was already closed.

JOSH: Very sad.

Mark Lane
@josh_ellis11 @Shannon_PG @HelmanDC Would you want to catch a fish at the famous fish market in Seattle where they throw it?

"On Air with Dallas Cowboys Star Magazine" can now be heard live or on demand each week at DallasCowboys.com.
Tweet your questions to @DCStarMagazine, @josh_ellis11, @Shannon_PG and @HelmanDC

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JEFF SULLIVAN

SOME OF THE THOUGHTS THAT RUN THROUGH AN OVERSIZED, BALD HEAD

My first encounter with Joseph Randle was at the 2013 NFLPA Rookie Premiere in Los Angeles. He was one of three Cowboys there along with Terrance Williams and Gavin Escobar. I was actually there with my other job at Panini America, but figured why not multi-task and knock out interviews with each for feature stories in this very magazine.

Randle was pleasant enough, a little cocky – even on the record, which is rare nowadays – a little goofball in him. He told me a story about sneaking into the Super Bowl when it was here in Arlington, was quite proud of himself. I spoke with him a few times after that, and it was more or less the same, likeable enough, but you just came away with the feeling like he wasn't getting it.

Then there was the ridiculous comment this offseason about DeMarco Murray leaving a lot of meat on the bone during his record-setting 2014 campaign. Just no reason to say it, even if he somehow believed it. Randle was kind of living in his own world. A place where it seems like a solid idea to shoplift some cologne and underwear when making nearly \$600,000.

There was another incident last February when he was arrested in Wichita, Kan. Part of me thought he was going to be released before training camp even started, but instead the Cowboys stuck with him and more or less handed him the starting gig.



Randle showed signs of becoming a big-time player, too, averaging nearly seven yards per carry in 2014 and busting off some nice long runs in the early going of this season, including a brilliant 37-yarder against Atlanta. For me, though, the point of no return, when I honestly felt like he should have been released, came after the New Orleans loss when he was asked about the coaching staff's frustration with him diving over the top from the 1-yard line and reaching the ball out across the goal line. The touchdown counted, barely, but Jason Garrett and others were upset because they had repeatedly told Ran-

TRIVIA TIME

- 1) Name the only player to lead the Cowboys in rushing and receiving yards in the same season.
- 2) Name the two Cowboys running backs to catch at least 70 passes in a season.
- 3) Name five of the seven running backs the Cowboys have selected in the first round of the NFL Draft.

dle not to do just that. After the game, when asked about it by reporters, Randle simply responded, "Six points."

To me, this was blatant disrespect toward his coaches and Garrett, and no matter how it would affect the team, he should have been gone. Still, the Cowboys kept him.

Last week, however, with more personal problems surrounding Randle, the team finally released him.

Randle was given more chances than most players would receive. His older brother, John, was a standout running back at Kansas before he was dismissed from the team for too many off-the-field troubles. And while at Oklahoma State, Joseph spoke of learning from his brother's example of what not to do. So much for that.

Here's hoping Randle is given another shot, likely next season, after he hopefully can resolve whatever issues are taking place in his personal life. Maybe this will be the wakeup call he needs, and he'll return with another team minus the cockiness and attitude.

Amazingly, and I just double-checked this, he's only 23 years old. He's still a kid in many ways, but to succeed in the NFL, he needs to grow up.

As for the running back situation over the remainder of the season, I've been saying since the preseason that Darren McFadden is the best option for this team. He hits the holes a little quicker, and he's a better blocker, although he hasn't been stellar by any means picking up the blitz. McFadden is also a better receiver.

Christine Michael is a solid backup who brings a more powerful, downhill style, and then there's Rod Smith and the recently signed Trey Williams. They think Williams can bring some of what they lost with the season-ending injury to Lance Dunbar.

The point being, while Randle has his own problems to work out, as I've been preaching all along, running back hasn't been the problem for the Cowboys this season.

TRIVIA ANSWERS:

- 1) Herschel Walker in 1987
- 2) Walker with 76 in 1986 and Ron Springs with 73 in 1983
- 3) Calvin Hill, Duane Thomas, Bill Thomas, Charley Young, Tony Dorsett, Emmitt Smith and Felix Jones

We have all been guilty of it, there's no shame in admitting so. The injury to Tony Romo has been this across-the-board crutch. The reason the Cowboys have lost six straight is his injury. That's the narrative, and we like nice, neat narratives, so we're oh, so happy to oblige. The season would have been magical, no one to blame. Just Romo went down and that's all there is. Except, that is rubbish.

I have long given up on how games are spun. This has befuddled me for decades. Seems like one member of the media decides what the angle is and the masses run with it. The quarterback is almost always involved. But let's be crystal clear here: The six-game losing streak isn't about Romo. I'm not oblivious to the obvious. Having Romo behind center would have certainly helped this team the last two months. Still, there's so much more going on.

The defense has lost at least half of the six games. Matt Cassel and the offense tallied 27 points. That should have been more than enough against an Eagles offense desperately trying to find an identity.

Let's go back in time, before the season started, to why so many people, myself included, thought this was a Super Bowl-caliber team. It wasn't the unrealistic expectations of the offense. We knew what was there. We didn't expect a leap in production. The optimism was about the defense. The defense was supposed to make the leap. The defense was going to help win games.

This defense isn't what we thought. Not in any way, shape or form. The difference between the 1991 and 1992 Dallas Cowboys wasn't the offense. It was the defense that led that team to the Super Bowl. The last two games the opposing team has been missing its starting left tackle, the latter a seven-time Pro Bowl selection in Jason Peters, and the Cowboys mustered one sack in eight-plus quarters. There has been exactly one turnover in the last six games.

Yes, one turnover. Romo has nothing to do with that. One turnover in six games. Heck, the Cowboys have forced a turnover in just two of their eight games overall. Doesn't matter who is taking the snaps. That is almost impossible to overcome.

As for this season of great expectations, yeah, it's probably finished. No one is more optimistic than me, but just can't envision this ending with a postseason berth. Can't fathom this team finishing at .500. The defense just can't generate a pass rush. Can talk about everything else, but it's about the pass rush. It's about what takes place on the line of scrimmage.

Tyron Smith didn't have his best game. And Rolando McClain struggled as much as he ever has since returning. Just need more plays from the middle linebacker. He appears a step behind on every snap.

Cassel played well: 316 yards of offense, three touchdown passes. Was really impressive in the pocket in terms of avoiding the rush and extending the play. Yeah, the interception was brutal, the third pick-6 in the fourth quarter this season, but come on, that wasn't the issue.

Have to be concerned about Sean Lee. There is nothing in this league more alarming than multiple concussions, never mind inside of two months. As someone who has experienced numerous concussions – think my count is seven – they tend to become more and more impactful. And Lee is one of my all-time favorite people to deal with. He's a class act. Could definitely see him as a head coach at the college or pro level. Not here to preach, not my place, just worried about him.

A lot went wrong on that touchdown in overtime, from Byron Jones in coverage to not being able to make a play after the catch. Then there's the bad luck of this team just not being able to win a coin flip. Like in forever. The defense was tired. Just seemed too easy. The big play was the second-and-14 when DeMarco Murray ran for an easy 20 yards. There was also a third-and-3 where it was obvious the unit was just gassed. No one was able to make a play.

The 79-yard kickoff return was brilliant, but Lucky Whitehead cannot, under any circumstances, field a punt at the 1-yard line. There were a ton of mental mistakes throughout, but that one just stands out.

In what has to be a first, Cassel threw his 100th NFL touchdown pass. No, that's not a first, but how about from a guy who never threw a single scoring strike in college. Not one. I was among those who didn't think Brandon Weeden should have lost the starting job, but Cassel has been better, has given the team more of a chance to win games. Having Dez Bryant around certainly helps. That jump-ball touchdown catch was all just Dez making a play.

The offensive game plan was different in terms of Darren McFadden not being involved in the passing game. Another gritty performance from Run-DMC, though, who has a real chance at cracking 1,000 yards rushing.

CRYSTAL BALL

Keep saying that there's no way to predict this team to win a game before they actually do so without Romo, but Cassel seems settled into this offense, and the Giants beat Tampa Bay by two touchdowns despite Eli Manning throwing a pair of picks. So despite the obvious, let's say the pain and misery ends with a solid win on the road.

COWBOYS 26, BUCCANEERS 17.



Jeff Sullivan is the author of "America's Team: The Official History of the Dallas Cowboys." Follow him on Twitter, @SullyBaldHead, or email comments to jsullivan@dallascowboys.net.



27

INSIDE THE



26

The Cowboys' 11-play, 93-yard scoring drive to start the game continued a trend for the squad in 2015. In eight of its outings so far this season, Dallas has now put points on the board during its first drive in six of them, totaling 26 points combined on their opening possession. The team also scored a touchdown in Week 3 against the Falcons while earning field goals in both outings vs. the Giants as well as the Saints and Seahawks. Although the Cowboys came into this game ranked 29th in scoring offense overall, they were eighth in the NFL for points scored on the first possession.

39-23

Including its 7-0 lead over the Eagles after the first quarter of this game, Dallas has now outscored its opponents a combined 39-23 through the first quarter of play. Unfortunately, over the final three quarters, the Cowboys have been outscored 121-227. That includes being outpaced 51-86 in the fourth quarter and overtime.

"We had them where we wanted them. We had opportunities. We just didn't take advantage of them."

– Cole Beasley

BEASLEY



112

Where have you been Cole Beasley? The Cowboys receiver hadn't caught a pass in the last two games, seemingly overlooked in the offense since Matt Cassel took over in Week 7. But in this one against the Eagles, Beasley led the team with nine catches for 112 receiving yards and two touchdowns. This marked his first career 100-yard game and also set a new personal best for receptions. In addition, Bailey equaled his most touchdowns scored, having also recorded two at Chicago on Dec. 4, 2014.



33

NUMBERS



The Cowboys' losing effort wasn't due to a lack of offense. Of the 411 total yards gained, 117 of them came thanks to Darren McFadden. This was his second 100-yard effort of the season, having rushed for 152 yards in the Week 7 loss at the Giants. He hasn't had two 100-yard rushing games in the same season since 2012 when he posted three, and his highest effort came during the 2010 campaign when he hit the century mark six times. McFadden also carried the ball 27 times against the Eagles, marking the third straight game in which he has had at least 20 attempts, the longest such streak of his career.

The loss certainly couldn't be pinned on Matt Cassel, who completed 66 percent of his passes for 299 yards. And while he had one costly interception, his fourth since taking over quarterbacking duties, he also threw for three touchdowns, marking the 12th time in his career that he has posted at least three scoring tosses, and his first time doing so since earning four at Indianapolis on Oct. 9, 2011 while as a member of the Kansas City Chiefs. Cassel's final touchdown throw was the 100th of his career.

"I turned around and I saw all of our guys on the ground. And I just saw him going up for the ball. A real good play by a great player."

- Eagles defensive end Fletcher Cox on Dez Bryant's touchdown catch.



GRADING THE GAME



QUARTERBACKS

Matt Cassel threw a pick-six in the fourth quarter, which was a killer, but he played a decent game otherwise. He threw for three touchdowns and led the Cowboys to 13 fourth-quarter points.

B



DEFENSIVE LINE

Against a makeshift Eagles offensive line, the Cowboys got one sack and generally failed to generate much pressure on Sam Bradford. They also allowed 149 rushing yards, with struggles on both the inside and outside.

D-



RUNNING BACKS

Darren McFadden continues to be effective, and he continues to stay healthy. Against a solid Eagles front, he pounded the ball 27 times for 117 yards, and he had very few negative plays.

B+



LINEBACKERS

Sean Lee and Anthony Hitchens both excited the game with injuries, putting an enormous amount of pressure on Rolando McClain and Andrew Gachkar. The presence of Lee, in particular, was missed.

C



WIDE RECEIVERS

Whether it was Cole Beasley's career-high night or Dez Bryant's ridiculous touchdown, this was as well as the wideouts have played all year. It was a refreshing reminder that there's talent at the position.

A-



SECONDARY

Brandon Carr and Morris Claiborne seemed to have decent nights, but the secondary struggled mightily against receiver Jordan Matthews. The multiple breakdowns on his game-winning touchdown were brutal.

D+



TIGHT ENDS

A very standard night for Jason Witten, who reeled in six balls for 43 yards, although he seemed to miss a big opportunity during the Cowboys' eventual game-tying drive to force overtime.

C+



SPECIAL TEAMS

Dan Bailey scared everyone with his bank-shot field goal, but it went in. Chris Jones didn't allow Darren Sproles to factor in the return game, and Lucky Whitehead provided a huge spark with a big kickoff return.

A



OFFENSIVE LINE

Tyron Smith struggled mightily with Philly's Brandon Graham, and the Eagles got four total sacks on the night. It was a solid night running the ball, but the pass protection was not up to snuff.

B-

Although he made it interesting, his tying field goal in the final minutes of regulation hitting the left upright before falling through, Dan Bailey extended his streak of consecutive field goals made to 19. He converted three in the 2014 season finale at Washington, and thus far has been good on all 16 in 2015. He has now surpassed Richie Cunningham (18, 1997) for the sixth-longest consecutive made streak in team history. Bailey already owns the longest streak in history, having hit 30 straight in 2013-14.



16

GRADES: BAILEY & MCCLAIN: JAMES SMITH/DALLAS COWBOYS; BRYANT: SAM SMITH/DALLAS COWBOYS

**33****EAGLES**
4-4**27****COWBOYS**
2-6**Scoring**

	1	2	3	4	OT	F
Philadelphia Eagles	0	7	7	13	6	33
Dallas Cowboys	7	0	7	13	0	27

1ST QUARTER

Cowboys: 6:44 – Beasley 5 yd pass from Cassel (Bailey kick)

PHI**DAL**

0 7

2ND QUARTER

Eagles: 9:01 – Murray 1 yd run (Sturgis kick)

7 7

3RD QUARTER

Eagles: 8:36 – Mathews 6 yd run (Sturgis kick)

14 7

Cowboys: 2:04 – Beasley 17 yd pass from Cassel (Bailey kick)

14 14

4TH QUARTER

Eagles: 12:47 – Hicks 67 int return (Sturgis kick)

21 14

Cowboys: 10:52 – Bryant 18 yd pass from Cassel (Bailey kick)

21 21

Eagles: 7:22 – Sturgis 31 yd field goal

24 21

Cowboys: 2:53 – Bailey 41 yd field goal

24 24

Eagles: 1:46 – Sturgis 53 yd field goal

27 24

Cowboys: 0:02 – Bailey 44 yd field goal

27 27

OVERTIME

Eagles: 11:59 – Matthews 41 yd pass from Bradford

33 27

COWBOYS LEADERS

Passing: Cassel - 299 YDS, 3 TD, 1 INT

Rushing: McFadden - 27 CAR, 117 YDS

Receiving: Beasley - 9 REC, 112 YDS, 2 TD

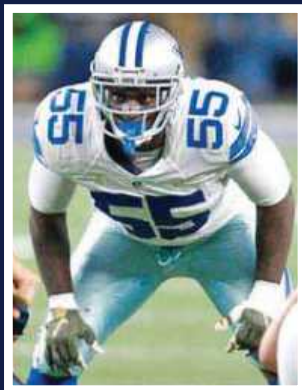
Defense: Church - 8 TKLS (4 SOLO)

SCOUT'S TAKE

I am starting to wonder if we will ever see the Rolando McClain that was such a force on this defense last year. I am really having my doubts as we hit the halfway point of the schedule. The Eagles

have struggled all season with linebackers that are aggressive in attacking the line of scrimmage, which is why I thought that McClain and Sean Lee were due to have big games. For McClain to end up with only three tackles against this Philadelphia offense was very disappointing. They needed a big game from him, but once again, it just didn't happen.

– Bryan Broaddus



fan reaction



Bridgette Marie ROMO!!! COME BACK ASAP!
Still love the Cowboys. Win or lose!

Brittany Gonzales I'm not liking this losing streak!
Win or lose, I'm still a fan! Go Cowboys! LOVED that catch by Dez!

Daniel Boles We lost. It sucks. But be proud Cowboys fans. Our boys played their hearts out.

DJ Sancho We're barely losing these games. We would have been stomping on EVERYONE with Tony Romo and Dez Bryant healthy in all these games. I still have some hope. It's only halfway through the season. #cowboysnation #dontgiveup

Valerie Anderson Durant Proud of my team, no matter what. Matt Cassel, Dez Bryant, Cole Beasley, Dan Bailey and the Boyz fought hard. Talking smack about the Cowboys? Go find another team, please.

Jairo Axel Villalobos Hey guys, we've had a rough start, but who cares. We're Cowboys fans, win, lose or tie. We're Cowboys fans 'til we die, so hey, keep your heads up. Never give up! Cowboy up.

Keith Michaels Even though Dallas lost, they played a heck of a game. That's the best they've looked since Week 2. In two weeks we get Romo back, and it's back to winning again. Romo, McFadden, Bryant, Witten, Beasley. Cowboys might end up 10-6.

Loni Hernandez Ugh!!! Not happy, but the Cowboys did well. They kept up and it wasn't a shutout against us. Wish we could have won. The Cowboys vs. Eagles games will always be huge.

Isaiah Ruiz-Castillo Dallas was doing great this game. Tough loss again for the Cowboys. This season is terrible for the Cowboys with injuries and some close games that were lost.

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JUST KEEP GOING

By Mickey Spagnola

WITH THEIR LOSING STREAK NOW AT SIX GAMES, THE COWBOYS KNOW THE TASK AHEAD IS DAUNTING.

ARLINGTON, Texas – Maybe it should just come down to this on Sunday against Tampa Bay when the Cowboys embark on the second half of a season that can't possibly be crueler than the first half has been.

Just save themselves all that blood, sweat and tears they have endured during their longest losing streak since dropping the final seven games of the 1989 season, the 1-15 record that year arguably the worst in club history, seeing that their 0-11-1 effort came somewhat understandably in their inaugural 1960 season.

Simply walk out to the NFL's Golden 50-yard line in Tampa, Fla., for the opening coin flip and propose ...

Heads we win, tails we lose.

Isn't that really what Eagles 33, Cowboys 27 this past Sunday night here at AT&T Stadium ultimately came down to before 91,827 fans, the majority seemingly standing for the final quarter of rock 'em, sock 'em football that left the Cowboys saddled with a six-game losing streak, dead last in the NFC East.

Why, the stagnant offense scored 27 points, the most the Cowboys have totaled in the last five games. Matt Cassel, threw for 299 yards, the most by a Cowboys' quarterback since Tony Romo tossed 356 in the season opener, and 202 yards more than Cassel had the previous week.

The running back, Darren McFadden, rushed for 117 yards, his second 100-yard performance in three weeks, along with his third consecutive 20-carry game now that the Cowboys have cut ties with previous starter Joseph Randle.

Dez Bryant is definitely back, and Cole Beasley re-emerged. Dez posted 104 receiving yards and one huge touchdown while Beasley went for 112 and two scores.

They had the good fortune of a 79-yard kickoff return by Lucky Whitehead and a Dan Bailey field-goal attempt from 44 yards out that was nearly blocked, banged off the left upright and caromed sideways just over the crossbar for the game-tying three points.

This defense even held the Eagles to just 267 yards and 14 points over the first 49 minutes of this division struggle. And Dallas, absorbing gut-punch after gut-punch, actually came back four times to tie the score and send the game into overtime.

Yet, the Cowboys still lost, and some might insist here is how it happened: The Eagles called *tails* for the coin flip to start overtime, giving the Cowboys *heads*, and gosh darn it, the coin came up tails, meaning the Cowboys lost the second straight overtime coin flip this year, forcing them to kick off.

They never got the ball again, the Eagles going 80 yards in nine plays, capped by Sam Bradford's 41-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Matthews.

Ballgame.

OK, sure, that's an over-simplification of the loss. Of course, the Eagles were able to gain 192 yards and score 12 points on their final three possessions of this game, a resilient Cowboys defense turning porous just when the offense figured out how to put 411 yards on Philadelphia, scoring on four of its final five possessions.

"Well, it's another loss, it's tougher," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "We played well enough to win this ballgame ... but obviously not there enough. We understand – we can add and subtract – the job we have ahead of us."

Daunting, for sure. The Cowboys are 2-6, with eight games left. They must win six of eight just to finish .500. Need to win seven of eight to get to 9-7, a reasonable record to win the NFC East this season. Especially if you figure the New York Giants lead the division at 5-4, but have to face New England this coming Sunday. Especially if you figure the Eagles, having earned a split with the Cowboys, are now just 4-4, with even Washington ahead of Dallas at 3-5.

"Oftentimes this happens in your professional life, but sometimes it happens in your personal life when you feel like you're doing things the right way and you don't get the result you need," Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett said. "You can call it whatever you want to call it – if it's faith – but you've just got to keep going. You've got to keep banging away.

"We'll keep battling, keep banging away. We'll take it one day at a time, one week at a time. I like our team a lot."

The cumulative effect of these losses might take a toll on those

of lesser character. Just think: They lost in overtime at New Orleans after battling in the final minutes to tie the game only to lose the overtime coin flip. They battled back against the Giants only to get beat by a 100-yard kickoff return immediately after tying the game. They lost by one point to Seattle after taking a late two-point lead.

And then this, a second overtime loss without even getting a chance to touch the ball. Again.

But as rookie Byron Jones says, "The guys we've got have the

character to bounce back. Just trying to get that win. Go 1-0."

Their margin for error shrinking ever-so rapidly.



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DALLAS COWBOYS 2015 STATISTICS

As of Nov. 8, 2015

TEAM STATISTICS	DAL	OPP
Total First Downs	175	165
Rushing	56	55
Passing	89	90
Penalty	30	20
3rd Down: Made/Att.	36/96	37/98
3rd Down Pct.	37.5%	37.8%
4th Down: Made/Att.	5/9	4/5
4th Down Pct.	55.6%	80.0%
Possession Avg.	33:47	26:13
Total Net Yards	2833	2818
Avg. Per Game	354.1	352.3
Total Plays	507	493
Avg. Per Play	5.6	5.7
Net Yards Rushing	1029	893
Avg. Per Game	128.6	111.6
Total Rushes	229	212
Net Yards Passing	1804	1925
Avg. Per Game	225.5	240.6
Sacked/Yards Lost	17/108	14/86
Gross Yards	1912	2011
Attempts/Completions	261/180	267/177
Completion Pct.	69.0%	66.3%
Had Intercepted	8	3
Punts/Avg.	33/46.0	37/45.8
Net Punting Avg.	41.7	43.5
Penalties/Yards	59/432	54/425
Fumbles/Ball Lost	10/5	2/1
Touchdowns	16	22
Rushing	6	9
Passing	9	9
Returns	1	4

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	OT	T
Cowboys	39	40	30	51	0	160
Opponents	23	54	41	74	12	204

SCORING	TDR	TDP	TDRt	2-Pt	PAT	FG	S	TP
Bailey	0	0	0	0	16/16	16/16	0	64
Randle	4	4	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	24
Te. Williams	2	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Beasley	2	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Witten	2	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
McFadden	2	2	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Bryant	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Wilber	1	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Escobar	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Street	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Cowboys	16	6	9	1	16/16	16/16	0	160
Opponents	22	9	9	4	19/19	17/19	1	204

2-Pt. Conversions: Cowboys 0-0, Opponents 1-1

FIELD GOALS	11-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Bailey	0/0	5/5	6/6	3/3	2/2
Cowboys	0/0	5/5	6/6	3/3	2/2
Opponents	1/1	3/3	5/6	4/5	4/4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
McFadden	113	462	4.1	22	2
Randle	76	315	4.1	37t	4
Dunbar	5	67	13.4	45	0
Cassel	7	64	9.1	24	0
Michael	12	43	3.6	13	0
Whitehead	5	37	7.4	15	0
Weeden	9	30	3.3	11	0
Romo	2	11	5.5	12	0
Cowboys	229	1029	4.5	45	6
Opponents	212	893	4.2	39	9

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Witten	44	403	9.2	35	2
Beasley	31	326	10.5	30	2
Te. Williams	23	340	14.8	42t	2
Dunbar	21	215	10.2	39	0
McFadden	21	166	7.9	19	0
Bryant	12	164	13.7	51	1
Randle	10	86	8.6	25	0
Escobar	4	24	6.0	13	1
Butler	3	108	36.0	67	0
Street	3	56	18.7	25t	1
Hanna	3	13	4.3	7	0
Whitehead	2	5	2.5	8	0
Clutts	1	4	4.0	4	0
Michael	1	2	2.0	2	0
Swaim	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cowboys	180	1912	10.6	67	9
Opponents	177	2011	11.4	80t	9

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Wilcox	1	24	24.0	24	0
Hardy	1	9	9.0	9	0
Lee	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cowboys	3	33	11.0	24	0
Opponents	8	193	24.1	67t	2

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Beasley	9	15	41	4.6	12	0
Whitehead	3	0	3	1.0	6	0
Dunbar	1	0	4	4.0	4	0
White	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Cowboys	14	15	48	3.4	12	0
Opponents	12	13	121	10.1	25	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	L	TD
Dunbar	6	146	24.3	32	0
Whitehead	4	144	36.0	79	0
Patmon	2	26	13.0	20	0
McFadden	1	23	23.0	23	0
Street	1	22	22.0	22	0
Cowboys	14	361	25.8	79	0
Opponents	7	245	35.0	100t	1

PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG	NET	TB	IN20	LG	BL
C. Jones	33	1517	46.0	41.7	1	13	61	0
Cowboys	33	1517	46.0	41.7	1	13	61	0
Opponents	37	1696	45.8	43.5	2	16	63	1

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE

Preseason Games (1-3)					
L	8/13	at San Diego	7-17	57,228	
L	8/23	at San Francisco	6-23	77,624	
L	8/29	MINNESOTA	14-28	86,082	
W	9/3	HOUSTON	21-14	85,067	

Regular-Season Games (2-6)					
W	9/13	NY GIANTS	27-26	93,579	
W	9/20	@ Philadelphia	20-10	69,296	
L	9/27	ATLANTA	28-39	90,345	
L	10/4	@ New Orleans	20-26	73,009	
L	10/11	NEW ENGLAND	6-30	93,054	
	10/18	Bye			
L	10/25	@ NY Giants	20-27	80,319	
L	11/1	SEATTLE	12-13	91,486	
L	11/8	PHILADELPHIA	27-33	91,827	
Sun.	11/15	@ Tampa Bay	FOX	Noon	
Sun.	11/22	@ Miami	FOX	Noon	
Thurs.	11/26	CAROLINA	CBS	3:30 p.m.	
Mon.	12/7	@ Washington	ESPN	7:30 p.m.	
Sun.	12/13	@ Green Bay	FOX	3:25 p.m.*	
Sat.	12/19	NY JETS	NFLN	7:25 p.m.	
Sun.	12/27	@ Buffalo	FOX	Noon*	
Sun.	1/3	WASHINGTON	FOX	Noon*	

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (Coaches' Film)

	Tackles			Sack	Int	FR
	Solo	Asst.	Total			
Lee	49	24	73	1	1	0
Church	47	26	73	0	0	0
Hitchens	29	13	42	2	0	0
B. Jones	28	8	36	0	0	0
Carr	30	5	35	0	0	0
Claiborne	21	13	34	0	0	0
Wilcox	19	11	30	0	1	0
Lawrence	13	14	27	1	0	0
Hayden	20	6	26	0	0	1
R. McClain	15	11	26	1	0	0
Hardy	8	8	16	4	1	0
T. Crawford	9	6	15	2	0	0
Wilber	13	1	14	0	0	0
Heath	8	4	12	0	0	0
Gachkar	7	3	10	0	0	0
Mincey	6	4	10	0	0	0
Irving	6	1	7	0	0	0
White	6	1	7	0	0	0
Patmon	4	3	7	0	0	0
Wilson	4	3	7	0	0	0
J. Crawford	2	5	7	3	0	0
T. McClain	3	2	5	0	0	0
Russell	0	1	1	0	0	0

SPECIAL TEAMS STATISTICS (Coaches' Film)

	Tackles			FR	BLK
	Solo	Asst.	Total		
Wilber	4	2	6	0	0
Wilson	3	1	4	0	0
Church	3	0	3	0	0
White	1	1	2	0	0
Gachkar	1	0	1	0	0
Hanna	1	0	1	0	0
B. Jones	1	0	1	0	0
Ladouceur	1	0	1	0	0
Dunbar	0	1	1	0	0
Heath	0	1	1	0	0
K. Smith	0	1	1	0	0
Irving	0	0	0	0	1
McCray	0	0	0	0	1
Wilcox	0	0	0	1	0



DeMarcus Lawrence







**WHETHER SPLITTING
THE UPRIGHTS ON A
LAST-SECOND FIELD
GOAL OR FLYING
THOUSANDS OF FEET
ABOVE THE GROUND,
STEADY DAN BAILEY IS
UP FOR THE CHALLENGE.**

It is just like any other kick.

That is the mantra that permeates Dan Bailey's thoughts as he takes the field. In his fifth season in the league and as now the most accurate kicker in NFL history, he has attempted just about every possible kick hundreds, if not thousands, of times. Repetition begets confidence, and no one is more certain of his abilities than Bailey.

His accolades aren't the product of complacency. Even if Bailey had time to rest on his laurels, his mind wouldn't let him. Whether he is on the field or off, the Cowboys kicker embraces all of his pursuits as tests.

Everything might be a challenge, but for Bailey, few things appear challenging.

* * * * *

When the roar of the crowd dissipates, Bailey likes to replace it with another steady hum. In training to earn his private pilot's license, he finds comfort and mental



stimulation strapped into a cockpit thousands of feet above the ground.

"Flying is just always something I wanted to do," the 27-year-old kicker said. "I've always been interested in it. Even now, it sounds probably kind of nerdy, but if planes are flying over, I'm looking up."

Bailey is actually not the first in his family to be drawn to the clouds. His grandfather, George Conant, worked on aircraft in the Navy during World War II, and after returning home, took a job at General Dynamics, the Fort Worth company known for developing the F-16 and F-11 fighter jets. A private pilot himself, Conant would help keep up the maintenance on airplanes on the ground during the day before taking to the air himself during his time off.

After meeting Conant's daughter, Ann, Gary Bailey quickly picked up the veteran's passion for flight. He, too, would earn his private license and hand down the love for flying to his son, Dan.

COOL CONFID



ADIUM

GOOD

By Micah Powell

ENCE

JAMES SMITH/DALLAS COWBOYS



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The usual allures for airmen don't apply to Bailey, however. Sure, he likes the majestic view, but at this point in his life, he is drawn to the more meticulous aspects of the hobby.

"You have a lot of variables you have to account for, a lot of multitasking going on, and you also have to maintain your focus on all the details," Bailey said. "You learn a lot about yourself doing it. It's the idea of taking it to the limit, pushing yourself as much as you can in an environment that is completely foreign to nearly everybody."

Just like in football where players study the tapes of those who came before them, Bailey focuses on the greats of aviation when he isn't parting the clouds himself. He is fascinated with Chuck Yeager, and for good reason. A legendary World War II ace and historic test pilot, Yeager became the first person to crack the sound barrier back in 1947.

"Maverick" and "Goose" may be two of the most popular cinematic pilots, but it is the incredible true story of Yeager, depicted in 1983's *The Right Stuff*, that captivates the aspiring pilot.

"It's all real. That stuff really happened. It's just inspirational to me," Bailey said. "Somebody like him, who is doing something no one has ever done before and didn't really know what was going to happen – it's just inspiring."

YEAGER



When asked in a *USA Today* interview in 2012 if he was ever afraid of the feats that would make him a living legend, Yeager said, "What good does it do to be afraid?" Bailey shares that sentiment.

"I feel like a lot of people are scared of it, but they don't really know about it," Bailey said. "I don't know if it's just a control thing or a fear of the unknown. It's challenging, but it's also very rewarding. There's nothing like it. When you're up there flying around, it's like nothing you can experience on the ground."

His detail-oriented hobby requires just as much thought and precision as his day job, and focusing on the little things off the field keeps his mind fresh when he's on it. The results speak for themselves, as Bailey has thrived for the Cowboys at the position like few have before him, a feat that is even more impressive given that his career in Dallas almost never got off the ground.

* * * * *

Though he strolled through the doors at Valley Ranch in 2011 with plenty of accolades to his name, Bailey entered the NFL similar to how he got his start at Oklahoma State – by having to earn his spot.

Coming out of Southwest Covenant High School in Yukon, Okla., Bailey passed up a full scholarship offer from the University of Ohio, and instead made his way to Arkansas where he was to receive an academic scholarship once he walked on to the team. That turned out not to be the case, however, as Bailey was released from his partial academic grant after failing to earn a kicking job. Once the coaches learned he would count toward the team's scholarship limit, he was gone.

After the disappointment in Fayetteville, Bailey then made his way to Oklahoma State and walked on to the team there. The move paid immediate dividends. Assuming the starting role midway through his freshman season, Bailey held the position through 2010, when he won the Lou Groza Award as the top kicker in college football. After converting 27-of-31 attempts en route to leading the FBS in scoring with 149 points, Bailey expected to find a gig at the next level.



And sure enough, although he went undrafted, Bailey was indeed signed as a rookie free agent by Dallas, which was holding a five-man audition during training camp for its one kicker position. All five remained with the team through the final preseason game, leading one of the candidates, former Cowboys kicker David Buehler, to joke that they may have to kick on all four downs just to give everyone a chance.

In the end, Bailey outlasted Buehler, Shayne Graham, Dave Rayner and Kai Forbath to claim the spot.

It took a while for the fan base to warm up to No. 5, though, and honestly, it's not hard to blame them. Before Bailey, the Cowboys cycled through kickers at a breakneck pace and rarely experienced gratifying outcomes. In the 10 seasons preceding Bailey's arrival, Cowboys kickers finished 30th or worse in the league five times, with only Nick Folk's campaign in 2008 serving as a top-10 result.

With Bailey now at the helm, Dallas has reversed its fortunes. He has posted three top-10 finishes in that same category during an era in which kickers are performing at a level never before seen in the NFL. Of the 15 kickers with the highest all-time field-goal percentage in history, 13 have entered the league since 2000 and 11 are currently active.

* * * * *

The fact that a revolution of sorts is taking place at the position is no coincidence to Bailey. He credits the rise in popularity of soccer and a new attitude toward kicking in general as having reshaped the way players approach the once overlooked spot.

"These younger guys coming in the league, they're not what you think a kicker would be," Bailey said. "These guys are fast, a lot of them are strong, lean guys. You don't really see a lot of out-of-shape kickers.

"Guys are approaching it differently and trying to incorporate a little more athleticism into the position. I think it's speaking for itself on the field from an accuracy standpoint."

His own accuracy was once again tested at the end of regulation in Week 1 of the 2015 season against the Giants, as the kicker strolled on to the field yet again with the game on the line. He went through his routine like the hundreds of attempts that preceded this one, but this time it was a little different.

After a miraculous comeback in the waning minutes, Bailey was tasked with hitting an extra point with just five seconds remaining to give the Cowboys a lead and almost assuredly a victory. A job he had done for more than a decade had undergone a facelift, though, as rule changes pushed the 18-yard point-after attempt all the way back to a 33-yard boot. The play once viewed as nothing more than an afterthought and the perfect time for fans to frequent the concession stands or beat traffic home, all of a sudden loomed incredibly large.

Just like he does with everything, Bailey embraced the idea of yet a new challenge.

"It's just another wrinkle thrown in there to make it harder on yourself," Bailey said. "Trying to find different ways to overcome that, whether it's mentally or physically, I find enjoyment in that."

So, Bailey took aim from the right hash mark. He measured his angles, took his steps, repeated his same robotic motion and drilled a picture-perfect attempt right down the middle.

In a stadium full of anxious fans, players and coaches, it was Bailey who was the calmest customer in the building. That came as no surprise to him, however, as it was, after all, just another kick.



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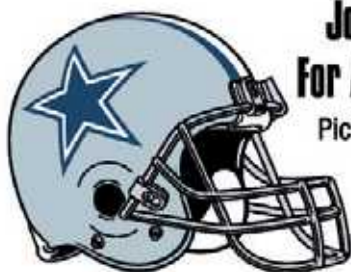
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The Cowboys decide to part ways with Joseph Randle, bringing more change to the team's offense.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER

BY MICKEY SPAGNOLA

First, it was Dez Bryant, then Tony Romo and then Lance Dunbar. Now, Joseph Randle.

Have you ever seen anything like it in your life?

One after another after another, this Dallas Cowboys offense, thought to be the backbone of the team coming into the 2015 season, has been decimated of its most talented players from the first week of the season through the eighth week.

What could possibly be next?

And, you are wanting to point a finger at why the Cowboys were 2-5 and battling a five-game losing streak heading into this past Sunday night's game against the Philadelphia Eagles?

Seriously, it's right there before your very eyes. The Cowboys have been forced to play five games without their Pro Bowl wide receiver, Bryant, will play seven games without their Pro Bowl quarterback, Romo, before he's eligible to return a week from Sunday, and will play a total of 12 games without the offensive sparkplug Dunbar. And now this:

They will play the rest of the season without Randle. The guy the Cowboys pegged to lead this running back by committee that was christened to replace last year's NFL leading rusher DeMarco Murray, who left back in March through free agency for Philadelphia when his cost became too rich for the Cowboys' reasonable salary-cap blood.

Randle left the team no other choice, but to release him last week after he:

- A) Refused to go back into the Oct. 25 game against the Giants after claiming he strained his back.
- B) Began displaying erratic behavior, actually calling the police to perform a welfare inspection at his residence, for some reason worried about his girlfriend's safety after he found her cell phone in his car.
- C) Failed to fulfill some responsibilities after it was learned some serious "personal issues" were troubling Randle, who at the time was leading the Cowboys in rushing.

And finally, with so much conjecture shrouding his absence, the least of his problems the supposed strained oblique muscle that technically kept him from returning against the Giants after two plays and from playing against the Seahawks – initially the Cowboys trainers listed him as probable to return in that loss in New York – there was this somewhat veiled, but revealing statement at AT&T Stadium after the Seattle game from Cowboys owner Jerry Jones that should have raised eyebrows from coast to coast:

“I’m always concerned as to any issues regarding the (mental) health of a player,” Jones said. “It’s a lot more serious than the football (injury).”

Randle had become one troubled soul. While the Cowboys have proven to be very forgiving with players dealing with off-the-field personal issues, Randle, for unspecified reasons at the time, had pushed the envelope too far for even the liberal Cowboys to condone his actions. These problems appeared far beyond any looming NFL suspension over his domestic abuse case from way back in February that had been initially reported as the reason for his absence.

While not totally forthcoming, Cowboys COO Stephen Jones had this to say last week about the release of Randle:

“Joe has personal issues that he’s got to get his hands around. Everybody wants to point to an issue – this issue or that issue. But as you just mentioned, it’s the full body of work. We have to look at it, and obviously I think, right now, football needs to be on the backburner for Joe. He needs to get his hands around some things.

“At the same time, we’re looking at our team and what’s best for our team, and that’s where we came down. But bigger than that, you have to make a decision about what’s in the best interest of that person. We came down to that it’s in Joe’s best interest right now to get his hands around his personal issues.”

Stephen Jones was in concert with Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett for moving on without Randle.

“I think at the time it was most important for him to get some issues in his personal life squared away, and it was important for us as a football team to focus on the task we have at hand going forward,” Garrett said. “I thought it was the right decision for our team.”

So Darren McFadden, thought to be the third member of this committee of three – Randle, Dunbar, McFadden – you’re up next, big guy. Sort of the last man standing heading into this past Sunday’s second meeting with Philadelphia. The Cowboys are now counting on the eighth-year veteran to carry the load, the “committee” having been abolished for the final nine games of the season.

The Cowboys are hoping beyond hope that since they made no major move at last week’s trade deadline, McFadden can stay healthy. The team did sign undrafted rookie Trey Williams (Texas



A&M) off Washington’s practice squad. Otherwise, all that’s left behind McFadden is third-year running back Christine Michael, who Seattle was only too happy to trade to the Cowboys earlier in the season, and former Seahawks back Rod Smith, claimed off waivers.

This is a chancy double-down bet on McFadden. Only once in his seven seasons in Oakland has he remained healthy enough to play all 16 games, that coming last year. And only once with the Raiders did he rush for 1,000 yards in a season, that being in 2010 when he gained 1,157 yards on a career-high 223 carries, although injuries limited him to 13 games even then.

McFadden, though, gave the Cowboys a measure of confidence in their time of need, carrying the ball 29 times – one short of his career high – against the Giants for 152 yards, his first 100-yard game since Week 2 of the 2013 season and the third most in his career (171 the high in 2011).

Then the following Sunday against Seattle, McFadden ran the ball 20 times for a tough 64 yards, many of those, as Garrett terms, “dirty yards.” That represented the first time McFadden had handled at least 20 carries in consecutive games since the first two contests of his injury-shortened 2011 season (22 and 20).

“Well, we’ve been pleased with how McFadden has basically stepped up his competitiveness,” Jerry Jones said of the former first-round pick from Arkansas. “His resolve has given us a foundation and a leadership at the running back position. It’s critical, so that’s certainly a consideration (for counting on him). And then we have a couple of young backs in Christine Michael and Smith that we think can really contribute to the team as well.

“We’re in good shape at running back or we wouldn’t have made this decision.”

But then when it comes to the Cowboys, after what they’ve gone through the first half of the season, “good shape” is relative, especially if we kick in the four-game suspension absences of Greg Hardy and Rolando McClain, the four-game injury absence of rookie Randy Gregory and recall they lost cornerback Orlando Scandrick for the season during training camp.

And to think someone had the nerve to ask Jones about the size of those holes on this team created by the early-game absences of Romo and Bryant.

“Well, the holes that Romo left behind, the holes that Dez left behind,” Jones began, unable to contain a wide grin, “having Hardy and Gregory, and players like that now on the field that weren’t on the field, McClain, I saw some holes that were left behind. Hopefully, we can get all the potholes patched up. Have them all out there together real soon.”

Before they run out of asphalt for sure.

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GAME P



BUCCANEERS' FUTURE RIDING ON WINSTON

BY MIKE RABUN

Just in case anyone lets it slip his mind, those responsible for throwing the football around remind us from time to time that the NFL is a passing league and will be until further notice.

Drew Brees and Eli Manning combined the other day to account for 13 touchdown passes before Kai Forbath trotted onto the field to kick a 50-yard field goal for the last of the game's 101 points in a win for the New Orleans Saints over the New York Giants. There were 1,026 yards gained during that affair, 834 of them coming through the air.

Here and there, however, there are teams that – by choice rather than necessity – decide to play things a little closer to the vest. The Cowboys will see one of them Sunday on the first of their consecutive trips to the Sunshine State.

Going into last week's action, Tampa Bay had actually produced a few more running plays than passing plays and had been going about the business of trying to move the ball along the ground while keeping the ball away from its oftentimes pass-happy opponent.

This sort of tactic is usually employed by teams that have a hard time stopping said opposition and are trying to learn by doing, which describes the Buccaneers at this stage of their development. The Bucs feature a rookie at quarterback and, of course, he came to professional football highly recommended. After a quite-publicized career at Florida State, Jameis Winston was tossed into the choppy waters from the start.

He has survived to this point, completing nearly 60

percent of his throws, connecting on more touchdown passes than interceptions and compiling a passer rating of 85.6. That's nothing to write home about, but is not all that bad either for a first timer.

While Winston has been testing the waters, Tampa Bay has opted to put fourth-year running back Doug Martin into play, and he has managed to become the league's fourth-leading rusher as the season reached its halfway point.

That, therefore, is what the Cowboys will likely see Sunday. Winston will throw some, run now and then and hand off a lot to Martin, who has averaged almost 20 carries per game. It worked for a win over New Orleans and another against Atlanta, and it is apparently what the Buccaneers will do for the rest of the season.

The problem is that it is hard to outscore people that way, especially when your defense gives up almost 30 points an outing. Tennessee scored twice as many points at Tampa Bay as it has against anybody else this season. Carolina also produced its largest point total of the year against the Bucs, as did Washington. Jacksonville had its second-beefiest point total of the campaign when it faced Tampa Bay.

So what the Cowboys will see is a work in progress. There is likely no Super Bowl in the Buccaneers immediate future, but they know where they think their future is because they have plenty invested in him.

If Winston advances, so will Tampa Bay. The Cowboys, therefore, will be treated to an up-close look at how the lessons are progressing.

REVIEW



AT



MARQUEE MATCHUP



BUCCANEERS RB DOUG MARTIN vs. COWBOYS SS BARRY CHURCH

Injury-free so far in 2015, Martin is having his best season since rushing for 1,454 yards and 11 touchdowns and catching 49 passes for 474 yards in his Pro Bowl rookie season of 2012. Through Week 8, he was fourth in the NFL in rushing yards (612) and sixth in yards from scrimmage (748). He has also become more involved in passing situations lately, hauling in 11 passes for 107 yards in three games during October, including his first touchdown reception in three years. The Cowboys are counting Church, their second-leading tackler through seven games, to help contain the Bucs' breakaway threat.



GAME PREVIEW

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS BY DAVE IVEY

For the Buccaneers, the silver lining from last season's 2-14 finish wears a No. 3 jersey. Rookie quarterback Jameis Winston, the No. 1 pick in the 2015 draft, has been one of the best in the NFL as of late. Since Week 5, he has ranked fourth in the league in average yards per pass attempt (8.9) and passer rating (110.5), and was one of just three quarterbacks in the league who didn't throw a single pick. According to head coach Lovie Smith, Winston is growing more confident as a leader. "That's what we've seen from him," Smith said. "He has handled it the right way."

OFFENSE



Under the direction of Winston, the 2013 Heisman Trophy winner and BCS national champion from Florida State, the Tampa Bay offense entered Week 9 averaging 23.3 points and 353.3 yards per game – significantly up from the 17.7 points and 292.0 yards they posted last season. Fourth-year running back Doug Martin delivered three consecutive 100-yard rushing games against Carolina (106), Jacksonville (123) and Washington (136) in October. Wide receiver **MIKE EVANS**, the former Texas A&M standout who hauled in 12 touchdown passes as a 2014 rookie, finally found paydirt for the first time this season in Week 7 against the Redskins.

DEFENSE



Heading into their Week 9 game against the Giants, the Buccaneers ranked 28th in the league in scoring defense (28.4 points per game), 18th in sacks (14.0), 15th in total defense (352.1 yards per game) and seventh in takeaways (13). Three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle **GERALD MCCOY** is the most-decorated member of the team's 4-3 defense, and deservedly so. Tampa Bay's leading tacklers are linebackers Lavonte David and rookie Kwon Alexander, who received the game ball after tallying a game-high 11 tackles, an interception and a fumble recovery in the Bucs' victory at Atlanta less than 48 hours after the death of his 17-year-old brother.

SPECIAL TEAMS



After replacing erratic rookie Kyle Brindza in Week 5, **CONNOR BARTH** converted all nine of his field-goal attempts against the Jaguars, Redskins and Falcons. His 31-yarder in overtime gave Tampa Bay a 23-20 victory at Atlanta in Week 8. Rookie punter Jacob Schum won a preseason position battle with 10-year veteran Michael Koenen and has been averaging 42.3 yards per punt. Fourth-year running back Bobby Rainey handled all of the returns through the first seven games, averaging 12.1 yards per punt return (fourth in the NFL) and 28.2 yards on kickoffs (fifth). The Bucs' punt-coverage unit ranked among the top five in the league, allowing just 4.7 yards per return.

DID YOU KNOW?

Steve Spurrier, the "Head Ball Coach" who recently resigned at South Carolina, was the starting quarterback for Tampa Bay in the franchise's debut season of 1976. The Bucs finished 0-14 with the 31-year-old Spurrier going 0-12 and passing for 1,628 yards, seven touchdowns and 12 picks. He went on to coach Florida to a national championship in 1996 and was head coach of the Washington Redskins in 2002-03.

OFF THE GRID

Defensive end **JACQUES SMITH**, a Dallas native who starred at South Oak Cliff High School, was leading the Buccaneers with five sacks for a total of 50 yards in losses through eight weeks, which included three sacks and two forced fumbles in their Week 2 win at New Orleans. Undrafted out of Missouri in 2012, he originally signed with the Dolphins, and then played with the CFL's Hamilton Tiger-Cats in 2012 and was on the Jets' and Bills' practice squads in 2012 and 2013 before being claimed off waivers by Tampa Bay last year. In the final nine games of 2014, he collected 6.5 sacks.



EVANS: AP Photo/PATRICK SEMANSKY; MCCOY: PHOTO BY MARC SENOT/PAINNI; BARTH: AP Photo/DAVID GOODMAN; SMITH: AP Photo/DAVID J. PHILLIP



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COWBOYS 2015 ROSTER

GAME P

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE
3	Brandon Weeden	QB	6-4	228	4	Oklahoma State
5	Dan Bailey	K	6-0	195	5	Oklahoma State
6	Chris Jones	P	6-0	205	4	Carson Newman
11	Cole Beasley	WR	5-8	180	4	SMU
13	Lucky Whitehead	WR	5-9	180	R	Florida Atlantic
15	Devin Street	WR	6-3	200	2	Pittsburgh
16	Matt Cassel	QB	6-4	228	11	USC
17	Kellen Moore	QB	6-0	200	4	Boise State
19	Brice Butler	WR	6-3	215	2	San Diego State
20	Darren McFadden	RB	6-1	220	8	Arkansas
23	Corey White	CB	6-1	210	4	Samford
24	Morris Claiborne	CB	5-11	192	4	LSU
26	Tyler Patmon	CB	5-10	188	2	Oklahoma State
27	J.J. Wilcox	S	6-0	212	3	Georgia Southern
28	Trey Williams	RB	5-7	195	R	Texas A&M
30	Christine Michael	RB	5-10	221	3	Texas A&M
31	Byron Jones	CB	6-0	205	R	Connecticut
38	Jeff Heath	S	6-1	212	3	Saginaw Valley State
39	Brandon Carr	CB	6-0	210	8	Grand Valley State
40	Danny McCray	S	6-1	215	6	LSU
42	Barry Church	S	6-2	218	6	Toledo
44	Tyler Clutts	FB	6-2	250	5	Fresno State
45	Rod Smith	RB	6-3	226	R	Ohio State
50	Sean Lee	LB	6-2	238	6	Penn State
51	Kyle Wilber	LB	6-4	245	4	Wake Forest
52	Andrew Gachkar	LB	6-2	240	5	Missouri
55	Rolando McClain	LB	6-4	255	5	Alabama
57	Damien Wilson	LB	6-1	242	R	Minnesota
58	Jack Crawford	DT	6-5	288	4	Penn State
59	Anthony Hitchens	LB	6-0	235	2	Iowa
65	Ronald Leary	G	6-3	320	3	Memphis
68	Doug Free	OT	6-6	325	9	Northern Illinois
70	Zack Martin	G	6-4	315	2	Notre Dame
71	La'el Collins	OL	6-4	315	R	LSU
72	Travis Frederick	C	6-4	315	3	Wisconsin
73	Mackenzey Bernadeau	G	6-4	322	8	Bentley
76	Greg Hardy	DE	6-5	280	6	Mississippi
77	Tyron Smith	OT	6-5	320	5	USC
78	Charles Brown	OT	6-5	297	5	USC
82	Jason Witten	TE	6-6	263	13	Tennessee
83	Terrance Williams	WR	6-2	208	3	Baylor

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE
84	James Hanna	TE	6-4	260	4	Oklahoma
87	Geoff Swaim	TE	6-4	260	R	Texas
88	Dez Bryant	WR	6-2	220	6	Oklahoma State
89	Gavin Escobar	TE	6-6	260	3	San Diego State
90	DeMarcus Lawrence	DE	6-3	265	2	Boise State
91	L.P. Ladouceur	LS	6-5	256	11	California
92	Jeremy Mincey	DE	6-4	280	8	Florida
94	Randy Gregory	DE	6-5	255	R	Nebraska
95	David Irving	DE	6-7	272	R	Iowa State
96	Nick Hayden	DT	6-4	303	6	Wisconsin
98	Tyrone Crawford	DT	6-4	290	4	Boise State
99	Ryan Russell	DE	6-5	275	R	Purdue



COWBOYS COACHING STAFF

JASON GARRETT: HEAD COACH

Joe Baker: Safeties

Brett Bech: Assistant Strength and Conditioning

Rich Bisaccia: Asst. Head Coach/Special Teams Coord.

Ben Bloom: Defensive Ends

Gary Brown: Running Backs

Kevin Carberry: Offensive Assistant

Marc Colombo: Offensive Assistant

Derek Dooley: Wide Receivers

Matt Eberflus: Linebackers

Jerome Henderson: Secondary

Leon Lett: Defensive Tackles

Scott Linehan: Offensive Coordinator

Steve Loney: Assistant Offensive Line

Rod Marinelli: Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line

Keith O'Quinn: Assistant Special Teams

Frank Pollack: Offensive Line

Mike Pope: Tight Ends

Kendall Smith: Assistant Strength and Conditioning

Kyle Valero: Assistant Wide Receivers

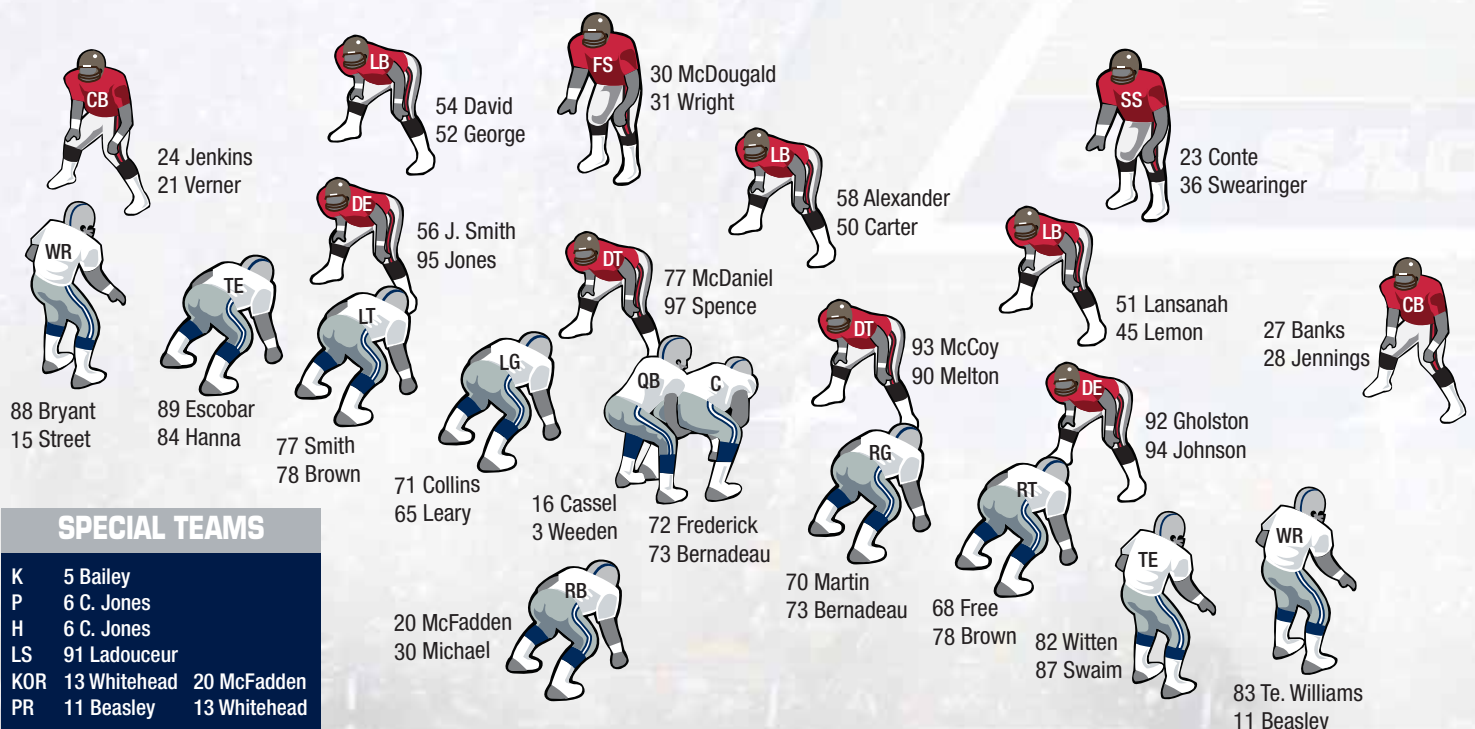
Turner West: Defensive Assistant

Wade Wilson: Quarterbacks

Mike Woicik: Strength and Conditioning Coordinator

PRACTICE SQUAD: DE Lavar Edwards, LB Darius Eubanks, WR Vince Mayle, CB Deji Olatoye, QB

Jameill Showers, LB Keith Smith, WR Rodney Smith, DT Casey Walker, OT Darrion Weems, OT John Wetzel



SPECIAL TEAMS

K	5 Bailey
P	6 C. Jones
H	6 C. Jones
LS	91 Ladouceur
KOR	13 Whitehead 20 McFadden
PR	11 Beasley 13 Whitehead

BUCCANEERS 2015 ROSTER



NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE
3	Jameis Winston	QB	6-4	231	R	Florida State
4	Ryan Griffin	QB	6-5	210	2	Tulane
5	Jacob Schum	P	5-11	211	1	Buffalo
8	Mike Glennon	QB	6-6	225	3	North Carolina State
10	Connor Barth	K	5-11	193	8	North Carolina
11	Adam Humphries	WR	5-11	195	R	Clemson
13	Mike Evans	WR	6-5	231	2	Texas A&M
17	Donteea Dye	WR	6-0	195	R	Heidelberg
21	Alterraun Verner	CB	5-10	187	6	UCLA
22	Doug Martin	RB	5-9	223	4	Boise State
23	Chris Conte	S	6-2	203	5	California
24	Mike Jenkins	CB	5-10	197	8	South Florida

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE
26	Sterling Moore	CB	5-10	202	5	SMU
27	Johnthan Banks	CB	6-2	185	3	Mississippi State
28	Tim Jennings	CB	5-8	185	10	Georgia
30	Bradley McDougald	S	6-1	209	3	Kansas
31	Major Wright	S	5-11	204	6	Florida
34	Charles Sims	RB	6-0	211	2	West Virginia
36	D.J. Swearinger	S	5-10	208	3	South Carolina
37	Keith Tandy	S	5-10	205	4	West Virginia
38	Jude Adjei-Barimah	CB	5-11	200	R	Bowling Green
43	Bobby Rainey	RB	5-8	212	4	Western Kentucky
45	Orie Lemon	LB	6-1	242	5	Oklahoma State
46	Jorvorskie Lane	FB	5-11	258	3	Texas A&M
48	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-2	230	2	Rutgers
50	Bruce Carter	LB	6-2	240	5	North Carolina
51	Danny Lansanah	LB	6-1	235	3	Connecticut
52	Jeremiah George	LB	5-11	234	2	Iowa State
54	Lavonte David	LB	6-1	233	4	Nebraska
55	Lawrence Sibury	DE	6-3	269	6	Richmond
56	Jacques Smith	DE	6-2	260	2	Missouri
58	Kwon Alexander	LB	6-1	227	R	LSU
62	Evan Smith	C	6-2	308	6	Idaho State
64	Kevin Pamphile	T	6-5	315	2	Purdue
68	Joe Hawley	C	6-3	302	6	UNLV
70	Logan Mankins	G	6-4	308	11	Fresno State
74	Ali Marpet	G	6-4	307	R	Hobart
76	Donovan Smith	T	6-6	338	R	Penn State
77	Tony McDaniel	DT	6-7	305	10	Tennessee
78	Gosder Cherilus	T	6-7	316	8	Boston College
82	Brandon Myers	TE	6-3	256	7	Iowa
83	Vincent Jackson	WR	6-5	230	11	Northern Colorado
84	Cameron Brate	TE	6-5	235	1	Harvard
87	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	TE	6-5	260	2	Washington
88	Luke Stocker	TE	6-6	253	5	Tennessee
89	Russell Shepard	WR	6-1	195	3	LSU
90	Henry Melton	DT	6-3	290	7	Texas
91	Josh Shirley	DE	6-1	235	R	UNLV
92	William Gholston	DE	6-6	281	3	Michigan State
93	Gerald McCoy	DT	6-4	300	6	Oklahoma
94	George Johnson	DE	6-4	265	4	Rutgers
95	Howard Jones	DE	6-4	238	1	Shepherd
97	Akeem Spence	DT	6-1	307	3	Illinois

BUCCANEERS COACHING STAFF

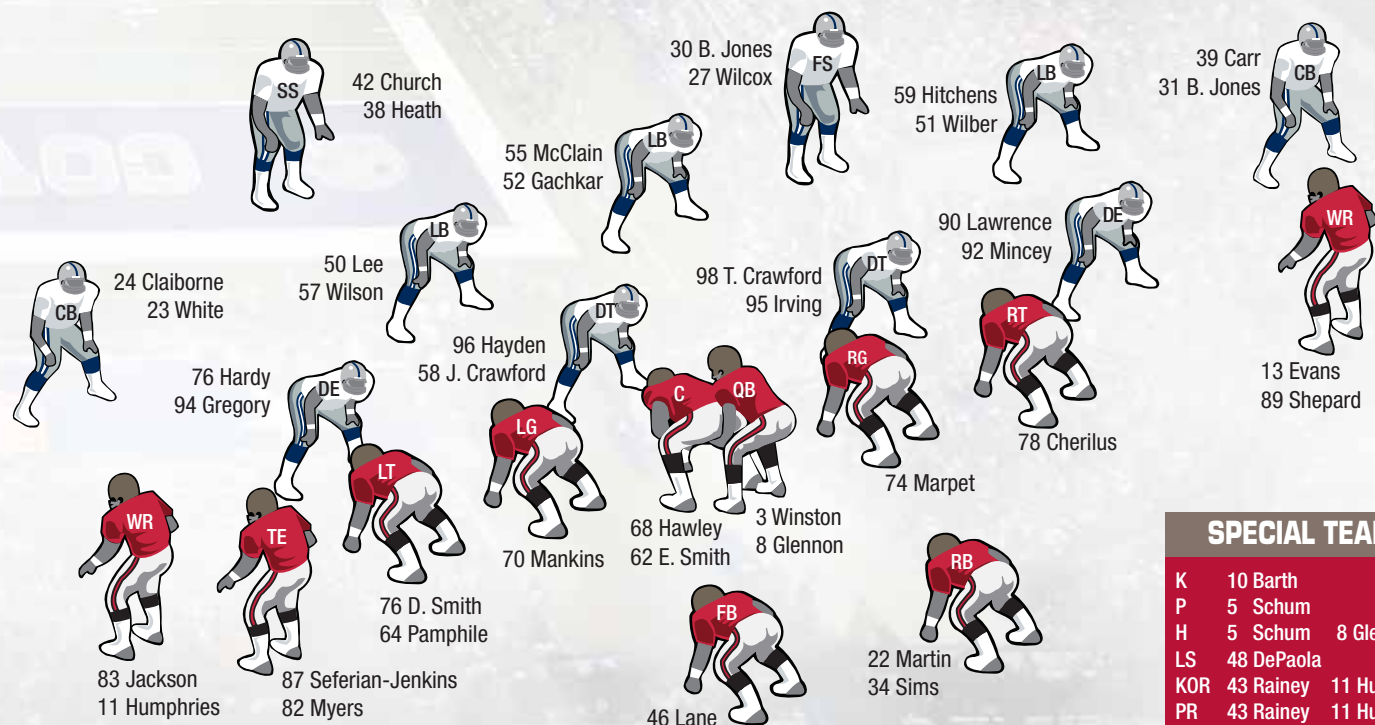
LOVIE SMITH: HEAD COACH



Mike Bajakian: Quarterbacks
Butch Barry: Assistant Offensive Line
Dave Borgonzi: Defensive Quality Control
Gill Byrd: Cornerbacks
Joe Cullen: Defensive Line

Jon Embree: Tight Ends
Leslie Frazier: Defensive Coordinator
Andrew Hayes-Stoker: Wide Receivers
Dave Kennedy: Head Strength and Conditioning
Dirk Koetter: Offensive Coordinator
Larry Marmie: Senior Defensive Assistant
Hardy Nickerson: Linebackers
Kevin O'Dea: Special Teams Coordinator
Carlos Polk: Assistant Special Teams
Mikal Smith: Safeties
Miles Smith: Defensive Quality Control
Tim Spencer: Running Backs
Paul Spicer: Assistant Defensive Line
Ben Steele: Offensive Quality Control
Joe Vaughn: Assistant Strength and Conditioning
Chad Wade: Assistant Strength and Conditioning
George Warhop: Offensive Line
Andrew Weidinger: Offensive Quality Control

PRACTICE SQUAD: WR Andre Davis, G Antoine Everett, G Ryan Groy, WR Rannell Hall, RB Mike James, DT Derrick Lott, LB Quayshawn Nealy, DE Ronald Powell, WR Evan Spencer, TE Tevin Westbrook



SPECIAL TEAMS

K	10 Barth
P	5 Schum
H	5 Schum 8 Glennon
LS	48 DePaola
KOR	43 Rainey 11 Humphries
PR	43 Rainey 11 Humphries

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SERIES HISTORY

Dallas is 13-3 against the Buccaneers (2-0 in the playoffs), with two of the three losses coming in Tampa Bay. The Cowboys have won five straight in the series since 2003, when they were shut out by the then-defending Super Bowl champs, 16-0, at Raymond James Stadium on Oct. 26, 2003. When they last met in Week 3 in 2012, two fourth-quarter field goals by Dan Bailey were the difference in a 16-10 win.

All-Time Results • Dallas Leads Series, 13-3

Date	Site	Winner	Score	Att.
10/2/77	Dallas	Dallas	23-7	55,316
9/21/80	Dallas	Dallas	28-17	62,750
1/2/82*	Dallas	Dallas	38-0	64,848
11/21/82	Dallas	Dallas	14-9	49,578
1/9/83**	Dallas	Dallas	30-17	65,042
10/9/83	Dallas	Dallas	27-24 (OT)	63,308
10/7/90	Dallas	Dallas	14-10	60,076
10/21/90	Tampa	Dallas	17-13	68,315
12/3/00	Tampa	Tampa Bay	7-27	65,621
9/9/01	Dallas	Tampa Bay	6-10	61,521
10/26/03	Tampa	Tampa Bay	0-16	65,602
11/23/06	Dallas	Dallas	38-10	63,183
10/26/08	Dallas	Dallas	13-9	63,254
9/13/09	Tampa	Dallas	34-21	63,806
12/17/11	Tampa	Dallas	31-15	65,162
9/23/12	Dallas	Dallas	16-10	81,984

2015 Nov. 15 at Tampa Bay

*NFC Divisional Playoff

**Super Bowl Tournament



FLASHBACK

DANNY WHITE completed 29-of-44 passes for a career-high 377 yards and two touchdowns as Dallas improved to 6-0 with a 27-24 overtime victory vs. the Buccaneers at Texas Stadium on Oct. 9, 1983. Fullback Ron Springs caught 11 passes for a career-high 126 yards, which included an 80-yard score in the first quarter. White's 52-yard touchdown strike to Timmy Newsome tied the game with 47 seconds left in regulation and Rafael Septien won it with a 42-yard field goal in OT.

AP Photo/Ron Herlin



Fighting Back

As a third-degree black belt, Maura Bivens knows how to fight. So when she was diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer, she researched her options until she discovered an aggressive new treatment. Thankfully it was a success and, three years later, she

shows no evidence of the disease. At Susan G. Komen®, we're inspired by this kind of tenacious spirit. That's why we keep investing in research that leads to medical breakthroughs, so others like Maura can keep fighting back.

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-20
-30
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NFC East

	W	L	T
NY Giants	5	4	0
Philadelphia	4	4	0
Washington	3	5	0
Dallas	2	6	0

NFC North

	W	L	T
Green Bay	6	2	0
Minnesota	6	2	0
Chicago	2	5	0
Detroit	1	7	0



NFC South

	W	L	T
Carolina	8	0	0
Atlanta	6	3	0
New Orleans	4	5	0
Tampa Bay	3	5	0

NFC West

	W	L	T
Arizona	6	2	0
St. Louis	4	4	0
Seattle	4	4	0
San Francisco	3	6	0

2015 SCHEDULES

COWBOYS 2-6

9/13	NY Giants	27-26
9/20	at Philadelphia	20-10
9/27	Atlanta	28-39
10/4	at New Orleans	20-26 OT
10/11	New England	6-30
10/18	BYE	
10/25	at NY Giants	20-27
11/1	Seattle	12-13
11/8	Philadelphia	27-33
11/15	at Tampa Bay	Noon
11/22	at Miami	Noon
11/26	Carolina (Thurs.)	3:30 pm
12/7	at Washington (Mon.)	7:30 pm
12/13	at Green Bay	3:25 pm
12/19	NY Jets (Sat.)	7:25 pm
12/27	at Buffalo	Noon
1/3/16	Washington	Noon

GIANTS 5-4

9/13	at Dallas	26-27
9/20	Atlanta	20-24
9/24	Washington (Thurs.)	32-21
10/4	at Buffalo	24-10
10/11	San Francisco	30-27
10/19	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	7-27
10/25	Dallas	27-20
11/1	at New Orleans	49-52
11/8	at Tampa Bay	32-18
11/15	New England	3:25 pm
11/22	BYE	
11/29	at Washington	Noon
12/6	NY Jets	Noon
12/14	at Miami (Mon.)	7:30 pm
12/20	Carolina	Noon
12/27	at Minnesota	Noon
1/3/16	Philadelphia	Noon

EAGLES 4-4

9/14	at Atlanta (Mon.)	24-26
9/20	Dallas	10-20
9/27	at NY Jets	24-17
10/4	at Washington	20-23
10/11	New Orleans	39-17
10/19	NY Giants (Mon.)	27-7
10/25	at Carolina	16-27
11/1	BYE	
11/8	at Dallas	33-27
11/15	Miami	Noon
11/22	Tampa Bay	Noon
11/26	at Detroit (Thurs.)	11:30 am
12/6	at New England	3:25 pm
12/13	Buffalo	Noon
12/20	Arizona	Noon
12/26	Washington (Sat.)	7:25 pm
1/3/16	at NY Giants	Noon

REDSKINS 3-5

9/13	Miami	10-17
9/20	St. Louis	24-10
9/24	at NY Giants (Thurs.)	21-32
10/4	Philadelphia	23-20
10/11	at Atlanta	19-25 OT
10/18	at NY Jets	20-34
10/25	Tampa Bay	31-30
11/1	BYE	
11/8	at New England	10-27
11/15	New Orleans	Noon
11/22	at Carolina	Noon
11/29	NY Giants	Noon
12/7	Dallas (Mon.)	7:30 pm
12/13	at Chicago	Noon
12/20	Buffalo	Noon
12/26	at Philadelphia (Sat.)	7:25 pm
1/3/16	at Dallas	Noon

BEARS 2-5

9/13	Green Bay	23-31
9/20	Arizona	23-48
9/27	at Seattle	0-26
10/4	Oakland	22-20
10/11	at Kansas City	18-17
10/18	at Detroit	34-37 OT
10/25	BYE	
11/1	Minnesota	20-23
11/9	at San Diego (Mon.)	7:30 pm
11/15	at St. Louis	Noon
11/22	Denver	Noon
11/26	at Green Bay (Thurs.)	7:30 pm
12/6	San Francisco	Noon
12/13	Washington	Noon
12/20	at Minnesota	Noon
12/27	at Tampa Bay	Noon
1/3/16	Detroit	Noon

LIONS 1-7

9/13	at San Diego	28-33
9/20	at Minnesota	16-26
9/27	Denver	12-24
10/5	at Seattle (Mon.)	10-13
10/11	Arizona	17-42
10/18	Chicago	37-34 OT
10/25	Minnesota	19-28
11/1	at Kansas City (London)	10-45
11/8	BYE	
11/15	at Green Bay	Noon
11/22	Oakland	Noon
11/26	Philadelphia (Thurs.)	11:30 am
12/3	Green Bay (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
12/13	at St. Louis	Noon
12/21	at New Orleans (Mon.)	7:30 pm
12/27	San Francisco	Noon
1/3/16	at Chicago	Noon

PACKERS 6-2

9/13	at Chicago	31-23
9/20	Seattle	27-17
9/28	Kansas City (Mon.)	38-28
10/4	at San Francisco	17-3
10/11	St. Louis	24-10
10/18	San Diego	27-20
10/25	BYE	
11/1	at Denver	10-29
11/8	at Carolina	29-37
11/15	Detroit	Noon
11/22	Oakland	Noon
11/26	Chicago (Thurs.)	7:30 pm
12/3	at Detroit (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
12/13	Dallas	3:25 pm
12/20	at Oakland	3:05 pm
12/27	at Arizona	3:25 pm
1/3/16	Minnesota	Noon

VIKINGS 6-2

9/14	at San Francisco (Mon.)	3-20
9/20	Detroit	26-16
9/27	San Diego	31-14
10/4	at Denver	20-23
10/11	BYE	
10/18	Kansas City	16-10
10/25	at Detroit	28-19
11/1	at Chicago	23-20
11/8	St. Louis	21-18
11/15	at Oakland	3:05 pm
11/22	Green Bay	Noon
11/29	at Atlanta	Noon
12/6	Seattle	Noon
12/10	at Arizona (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
12/20	Chicago	Noon
12/27	NY Giants	Noon
1/3/16	at Green Bay	Noon

FALCONS 6-3

9/14	Philadelphia (Mon.)	26-24
9/20	at NY Giants	24-20
9/27	at Dallas	39-28
10/4	Houston	48-21
10/11	Washington	25-19 OT
10/15	at New Orleans (Thurs.)	21-31
10/25	at Tennessee	10-7
11/1	Tampa Bay	20-23 OT
11/8	at San Francisco	16-17
11/15	BYE	
11/22	Indianapolis	Noon
11/29	Minnesota	Noon
12/6	at Tampa Bay	Noon
12/13	at Carolina	Noon
12/20	at Jacksonville	Noon
12/27	Carolina	Noon
1/3/16	New Orleans	Noon

PANTHERS 8-0

9/13	at Jacksonville	20-9
9/20	Houston	24-17
9/27	New Orleans	27-22
10/4	at Tampa Bay	37-23
10/11	BYE	
10/18	at Seattle	27-23
10/25	Philadelphia	27-16
11/2	Indianapolis (Mon.)	29-26
11/8	Green Bay	37-29
11/15	at Tennessee	Noon
11/22	Washington	Noon
11/26	at Dallas (Thurs.)	3:30 pm
12/6	at New Orleans	Noon
12/13	Atlanta	Noon
12/20	at NY Giants	Noon
12/27	at Atlanta	Noon
1/3/16	Tampa Bay	Noon

SAINTS 4-5

9/13	at Arizona	19-31
9/20	Tampa Bay	19-26
9/27	at Carolina	22-27
10/4	Dallas	26-20 OT
10/11	at Philadelphia	17-39
10/15	Atlanta (Thurs.)	31-21
10/25	at Indianapolis	27-21
11/1	NY Giants	52-49
11/8	Tennessee	28-34
11/15	at Washington	Noon
11/22	BYE	
11/29	at Houston	Noon
12/6	Carolina	Noon
12/13	at Tampa Bay	Noon
12/21	Detroit (Mon.)	7:30 pm
12/27	Jacksonville	Noon
1/3/16	at Atlanta	Noon

BUCCANEERS 3-5

9/13	Tennessee	14-42
9/20	at New Orleans	26-19
9/27	at Houston	9-19
10/4	Carolina	23-37
10/11	Jacksonville	38-31
10/18	BYE	
10/25	at Washington	30-31
11/1	at Atlanta	23-20 OT
11/8	NY Giants	18-32
11/15	Dallas	Noon
11/22	at Philadelphia	Noon
11/29	at Indianapolis	Noon
12/6	Atlanta	Noon
12/13	New Orleans	Noon
12/17	at St. Louis (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
12/27	Chicago	Noon
1/3/16	at Carolina	Noon

CARDINALS 6-2

9/13	New Orleans	31-19
9/20	at Chicago	48-23
9/27	San Francisco	47-7
10/4	St. Louis	22-24
10/11	at Detroit	42-17
10/18	at Pittsburgh	13-25
10/26	Baltimore (Mon.)	26-18
11/1	at Cleveland	34-20
11/8	BYE	
11/15	at Seattle	7:30 pm
11/22	Cincinnati	3:05 pm
11/29	at San Francisco	3:05 pm
12/6	at St. Louis	Noon
12/10	Minnesota (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
12/20	at Philadelphia	Noon
12/27	Green Bay	3:25 pm
1/3/16	Seattle	3:25 pm

49ERS (SF) 3-6

9/14	Minnesota (Mon.)	20-3
9/20	at Pittsburgh	18-43
9/27	at Arizona	7-47
10/4	Green Bay	3-17
10/11	at NY Giants	27-30
10/18	Baltimore	25-20
10/22	Seattle (Thurs.)	3-20
11/1	at St. Louis	6-27
11/8	Atlanta	17-16
11/15	BYE	
11/22	at Seattle	3:25 pm
11/29	Arizona	3:05 pm
12/6	at Chicago	Noon
12/13	at Cleveland	Noon
12/20	Cincinnati	7:30 pm
12/27	at Detroit	Noon
1/3/16	St. Louis	3:25 pm

SEAHAWKS 4-4

9/13	at St. Louis	31-34
9/20	at Green Bay	17-27
9/27	Chicago	26-0
10/5	Detroit (Mon.)	13-10
10/11	at Cincinnati	24-27 OT
10/18	Carolina	23-27
10/22	at San Francisco (Thurs.)	20-3
11/1	at Dallas	13-12
11/8	BYE	
11/15	Arizona	7:30 pm
11/22	San Francisco	3:25 pm
11/29	Pittsburgh	3:25 pm
12/6	at Minnesota	Noon
12/13	at Baltimore	7:30 pm
12/20	Cleveland	3:05 pm
12/27	St. Louis	3:25 pm
1/3/16	at Arizona	3:25 pm

RAIERS 4-4

9/13	Seattle	34-31
9/20	at Washington	10-24
9/27	Pittsburgh	6-12
10/4	at Arizona	24-22
10/11	at Green Bay	10-24
10/18	BYE	
10/25	Cleveland	24-6
11/1	San Francisco	27-6
11/8	at Minnesota	18-21
11/15	Chicago	Noon
11/22	at Baltimore	Noon
11/29	at Cincinnati	Noon
12/6	Arizona	Noon
12/13	Detroit	Noon
12/17	Tampa Bay (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
12/27	at Seattle	3:25 pm
1/3/16	at San Francisco	3:25 pm

AFC East

	W	L	T
New England	8	0	0
NY Jets	5	3	0
Buffalo	4	4	0
Miami	3	5	0

AFC North

	W	L	T
Cincinnati	8	0	0
Pittsburgh	5	4	0
Baltimore	2	6	0
Cleveland	2	7	0



AFC South

	W	L	T
Indianapolis	4	5	0
Houston	3	5	0
Jacksonville	2	6	0
Tennessee	2	6	0

AFC West

	W	L	T
Denver	7	1	0
Oakland	4	4	0
Kansas City	3	5	0
San Diego	2	6	0

2015 SCHEDULES

BILLS

9/13	Indianapolis	27-14
9/20	New England	32-40
9/27	at Miami	41-14
10/4	NY Giants	10-24
10/11	at Tennessee	14-13
10/18	Cincinnati	21-34
10/25	at Jacksonville (London)	31-34
11/1	BYE	
11/8	Miami	33-17
11/12	at NY Jets (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
11/23	at New England (Mon.)	7:30 pm
11/29	at Kansas City	Noon
12/6	Houston	Noon
12/13	at Philadelphia	Noon
12/20	at Washington	Noon
12/27	Dallas	Noon
1/3/16	NY Jets	Noon

DOLPHINS

9/13	at Washington	17-10
9/20	at Jacksonville	20-23
9/27	Buffalo	14-41
10/4	NY Jets (London)	14-27
10/11	BYE	
10/18	at Tennessee	38-10
10/25	Houston	44-26
10/29	at New England (Thurs.)	7-36
11/8	at Buffalo	17-33
11/15	at Philadelphia	Noon
11/22	Dallas	Noon
11/29	at NY Jets	Noon
12/6	Baltimore	Noon
12/14	NY Giants (Mon.)	7:30 pm
12/20	at San Diego	3:25 pm
12/27	Indianapolis	Noon
1/3/16	New England	Noon

Patriots

9/10	Pittsburgh (Thurs.)	28-21
9/20	at Buffalo	40-32
9/27	Jacksonville	51-17
10/4	BYE	
10/11	at Dallas	30-6
10/18	at Indianapolis	34-27
10/25	NY Jets	30-23
10/29	Miami (Thurs.)	36-7
11/8	Washington	27-10
11/15	at NY Giants	3:25 pm
11/23	Buffalo (Mon.)	7:30 pm
11/29	at Denver	7:30 pm
12/6	Philadelphia	3:25 pm
12/13	at Houston	Noon
12/20	Tennessee	Noon
12/27	at NY Jets	Noon
1/3/16	at Miami	Noon

JETS

9/13	Cleveland	31-10
9/21	at Indianapolis (Mon.)	20-7
9/27	Philadelphia	17-24
10/4	at Miami (London)	27-14
10/11	BYE	
10/18	Washington	34-20
10/25	at New England	23-30
11/22	at Houston	20-34
11/8	Jacksonville	28-23
11/12	Buffalo (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
11/22	at Houston	Noon
11/29	Miami	Noon
12/6	at NY Giants	Noon
12/13	Tennessee	Noon
12/19	at Dallas (Sat.)	7:25 pm
12/27	New England	Noon
1/3/16	at Buffalo	Noon

RAVENS

9/13	at Denver	13-19
9/20	at Oakland	33-37
9/27	Cincinnati	24-28
10/1	at Pittsburgh (Thurs.)	23-20
10/11	Cleveland	30-33 OT
10/18	at San Francisco	20-25
10/26	at Arizona (Mon.)	18-26
11/1	San Diego	29-26
11/8	BYE	
11/15	Jacksonville	Noon
11/22	St. Louis	Noon
11/30	at Cleveland (Mon.)	7:30 pm
12/6	at Miami	Noon
12/13	Seattle	7:30 pm
12/20	Kansas City	Noon
12/27	Pittsburgh	7:30 pm
1/3/16	at Cincinnati	Noon

BENGALS

9/13	at Oakland	33-13
9/20	San Diego	24-19
9/27	at Baltimore	28-24
10/4	Kansas City	35-21
10/11	Seattle	27-24 OT
10/18	at Buffalo	34-21
10/25	BYE	
11/1	at Pittsburgh	16-10
11/5	Cleveland (Thurs.)	31-10
11/16	Houston (Mon.)	7:30 pm
11/22	at Arizona	3:05 pm
11/29	St. Louis	Noon
12/6	at Cleveland	Noon
12/13	Pittsburgh	Noon
12/20	at San Francisco	7:30 pm
12/28	at Denver (Mon.)	7:30 pm
1/3/16	Baltimore	Noon

BROWNS

9/13	at NY Jets	10-31
9/20	Tennessee	28-14
9/27	Oakland	20-27
10/4	at San Diego	27-30
10/11	at Baltimore	33-30 OT
10/18	Denver	23-26 OT
10/25	at St. Louis	6-24
11/1	Arizona	20-34
11/5	at Cincinnati (Thurs.)	10-31
11/15	at Pittsburgh	Noon
11/22	BYE	
11/30	Baltimore (Mon.)	7:30 pm
12/6	Cincinnati	Noon
12/13	San Francisco	Noon
12/20	at Seattle	3:05 pm
12/27	at Kansas City	Noon
1/3/16	Pittsburgh	Noon

Steelers

9/10	at New England (Thurs.)	21-28
9/20	San Francisco	43-18
9/27	at St. Louis	12-6
10/1	Baltimore (Thurs.)	20-23
10/12	at San Diego (Mon.)	24-20
10/18	Arizona	25-13
10/25	at Kansas City	13-23
11/1	Cincinnati	10-16
11/8	Oakland	38-35
11/15	Cleveland	Noon
11/22	BYE	
11/29	at Seattle	3:25 pm
12/6	Indianapolis	7:30 pm
12/13	at Cincinnati	Noon
12/20	Denver	3:25 pm
12/27	at Baltimore	7:30 pm
1/3/16	at Cleveland	Noon

TEXANS

9/13	Kansas City	20-27
9/20	at Carolina	17-24
9/27	Tampa Bay	19-9
10/4	at Atlanta	21-48
10/8	Indianapolis (Thurs.)	20-27
10/18	at Jacksonville	31-20
10/25	at Miami	26-44
11/1	Tennessee	20-6
11/8	BYE	
11/16	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	7:30 pm
11/22	NY Jets	Noon
11/29	New Orleans	Noon
12/6	at Buffalo	Noon
12/13	New England	Noon
12/20	at Indianapolis	Noon
12/27	at Tennessee	Noon
1/3/16	Jacksonville	Noon

COLTS

9/13	at Buffalo	14-27
9/21	NY Jets (Mon.)	7-20
9/27	at Tennessee	35-33
10/4	Jacksonville	16-13
10/8	at Houston (Thurs.)	27-20
10/18	New England	27-34
10/25	New Orleans	21-27
11/2	at Carolina (Mon.)	26-29
11/8	Denver	27-24
11/15	BYE	
11/22	at Atlanta	Noon
11/29	Tampa Bay	Noon
12/6	at Pittsburgh	7:30 pm
12/13	at Jacksonville	Noon
12/20	Houston	Noon
12/27	at Miami	Noon
1/3/16	Tennessee	Noon

JAGUARS

9/13	Carolina	9-20
9/20	Miami	23-20
9/27	at New England	17-51
10/4	at Indianapolis	13-16
10/11	at Tampa Bay	31-38
10/18	Houston	20-31
10/25	Buffalo (London)	34-31
11/1	BYE	
11/8	at NY Jets	23-28
11/15	at Baltimore	Noon
11/19	Tennessee (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
11/29	San Diego	Noon
12/6	at Tennessee	Noon
12/13	Indianapolis	Noon
12/20	Atlanta	Noon
12/27	at New Orleans	Noon
1/3/16	at Houston	Noon

TITANS

9/13	at Tampa Bay	42-12
9/20	at Cleveland	14-28
9/27	Indianapolis	33-35
10/4	BYE	
10/11	Buffalo	13-14
10/18	Miami	10-38
10/25	Atlanta	7-10
11/1	at Houston	6-20
11/8	at New Orleans	34-28
11/15	Carolina	Noon
11/19	at Jacksonville (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
11/29	Oakland	Noon
12/6	Jacksonville	Noon
12/13	at NY Jets	Noon
12/20	at New England	Noon
12/27	Houston	Noon
1/3/16	at Indianapolis	Noon

BRONCOS

9/13	Baltimore	19-13
9/17	at Kansas City (Thurs.)	31-24
9/27	at Detroit	24-12
10/4	Minnesota	23-20
10/11	at Oakland	16-10
10/18	at Cleveland	26-23 OT
10/25	BYE	
11/1	Green Bay	29-10
11/8	at Indianapolis	24-27
11/15	Kansas City	3:25 pm
11/22	at Chicago	Noon
11/29	New England	7:30 pm
12/6	at San Diego	3:05 pm
12/13	Oakland	3:05 pm
12/20	at Pittsburgh	3:25 pm
12/28	Cincinnati (Mon.)	7:30 pm
1/3/16	San Diego	3:25 pm

CHIEFS

9/13	at Houston	27-20
9/17	Denver (Thurs.)	24-31
9/28	at Green Bay (Mon.)	28-38
10/4	at Cincinnati	21-36
10/11	Chicago	17-18
10/18	at Minnesota	10-16
10/25	Pittsburgh	23-13
11/1	Detroit (London)	45-10
11/8	BYE	
11/15	at Denver	3:25 pm
11/22	at San Diego	7:30 pm
11/29	Buffalo	Noon
12/6	at Oakland	3:05 pm
12/13	San Diego	Noon
12/20	at Baltimore	Noon
12/27	Cleveland	Noon
1/3/16	Oakland	Noon

RAIDERS

9/13	Cincinnati	13-33
9/20	Baltimore	37-33
9/27	at Cleveland	27-20
10/4	at Chicago	20-22
10/11	Denver	10-16
10/18	BYE	
10/25	at San Diego	37-29
11/1	NY Jets	34-20
11/8	at Pittsburgh	35-38
11/15	Minnesota	3:05 pm
11/22	at Detroit	Noon
11/29	at Tennessee	Noon
12/6	Kansas City	3:05 pm
12/13	at Denver	3:05 pm
12/20	Green Bay	3:05 pm
12/24	San Diego (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
1/3/16	at Kansas City	Noon

CHARGERS

9/13	Detroit	33-28
9/20	at Cincinnati	19-24
9/27	at Minnesota	14-31
10/4	Cleveland	30-27
10/12	Pittsburgh (Mon.)	20-24
10/18	at Green Bay	20-27
10/25	Oakland	29-37
11/1	at Baltimore	26-29
11/9	Chicago (Mon.)	7:30 pm
11/15	BYE	
11/22	Kansas City	7:30 pm
11/29	at Jacksonville	Noon
12/6	Denver	3:05 pm
12/13	at Kansas City	Noon
12/20	Miami	3:25 pm
12/24	at Oakland (Thurs.)	7:25 pm
1/3/16	at Denver	3:25 pm

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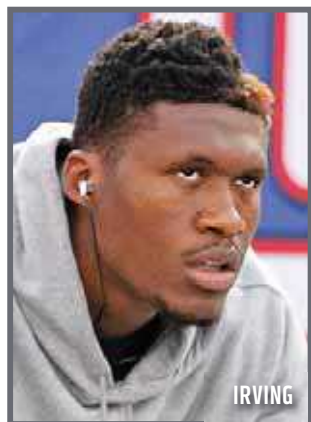
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WHERE YOU FIND IT



This must just drive NFL owners and general managers crazy.

If finding players was easy and predictable, if anyone in fact really had the

formula, then Drew Pearson and Cliff Harris might not be in the Cowboys' Ring of Honor. Undrafted players really wouldn't be able to play. No high pick would ever wash out.

But that's not how it is, and it never has been. When NFL teams were still scouting by word of mouth and football magazines 50 years ago, Gil Brandt and Tex Schramm started using computers. Now that everyone has the same technology and the draft has shrunk to seven rounds, the competition for quality is more ferocious. The salary cap has raised the stakes. You can't afford mistakes, and sometimes that leads to being more conservative, more risk-averse.

Nothing inherently wrong with that, but in today's NFL, you better be ready to admit a mistake. You better be ready to spot someone else's.

You better be able to find David Irving.

Let me be clear. No one is calling young Mr. Irving the next Bob Lilly. So far, he's not yet the next Tyrone Crawford. But he is an intriguing prospect

with a completely unique skill set and, potentially, a great story.

When Irving blocked a Seattle field-goal attempt in Week 8 that gave the Cowboys a real chance in the fourth quarter, a lot of fans could be excused for asking, "Who?"

Irving is only 22. He would be in his final season at Iowa State, except he got thrown off that team last year. There were a lot of bad personal choices made by a young man who didn't value what he had. He had enough talent for a draftable grade, and enough baggage to be passed over. The Kansas City Chiefs gave him a shot to come to camp, and he did enough during the preseason to earn a spot on their practice squad.

When Terrell McClain suffered a toe injury in Week 2 at Philadelphia, the Cowboys needed some depth on the defensive line. It was going to be two more weeks before Greg Hardy was eligible to play and at least that until Randy Gregory would be healthy.

Scouts knew all about Irving.

"We had him rated," said Senior Director of College/Pro Personnel Will McClay. "We checked him out and determined that the issues he had off the field in college weren't a lasting problem. He was worth the low risk. And we knew he had ability."

They might not have known they were getting a kid with such an apparently great attitude and work ethic. Irving was signed two days after the Atlanta game,

and five days later he played more than a quarter of the defensive snaps against New Orleans. His reps keep going up. So does his level of gratitude.

"Honestly, I'm blessed," says Irving, towering over his audience at a height of 6 feet, 8 inches. "I've come a long way. Last year, I had no idea I would be here. I was sleeping in my car part of the time. But things worked out. I'm here now and all I can do is try to keep improving and contribute more and more.

"I thought I had it at Iowa State. Had I not been lowered to where I was, I probably wouldn't appreciate it as much. Now I'm playing the game I love and I'm able to provide for my family. But, I know I haven't arrived. I'm used to being a top performer. I'm struggling right now. I can't wait until I can make plays on a more consistent basis."

Technically, what's unique about Irving is his ability to bend that tall frame of his and get low, while still elevating and using his height when he can. What's more unusual is listening to a player with his résumé – booted from school, undrafted, off-the-field issues – and hearing a young man who not only appears to have learned his lesson, but who is hungry for more learning.

David Irving is still a man-child, but he talks like a grown-up. He has a real chance, in football and at life. The Cowboys just might have found something.

You never know where that might happen.

Brad Sham is in his 37th season as The Voice of the Dallas Cowboys. The award-winning broadcaster is an inaugural inductee into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

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